THE NEW
SUNDAY EXPRESS

BENGALURU • SUNDAY • JANUARY 28, 2024 • ₹12.00 • PAGES 26 • LATE CITY EDITION

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SABALENKA STEALS SHOW ON SUPER SATURDAY

While Aryna Sabalenka defended her Australian Open title, Rohan Bopanna became the oldest man to win a Grand Slam. A look...

BOPANNA SHINES THROUGH

After securing the World No. 1 spot, Bopanna and Matthew Ebden beat Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori 7-6 (7/0), 7-5 in the final to win the title. Bopanna's previous GS win was at the 2017 French Open in mixed doubles | P13

1ST SINCE AZARENKA TO DEFEND AO TITLE
Sabalenka blew China's Zheng Qinwen (6-3, 6-2) off court to successfully defend her title — the first woman to do so in more than a decade.
ARYNA SABALENKA

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Nitish may quit today, stake claim to head the new govt with the BJP, take oath

I.N.D.I.A fractured in Bihar, stabilises in Uttar Pradesh

RAMASHANKAR @Patna

EIGHT-TIME Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is expected to tender his resignation as the head of the Grand Alliance government by Sunday morning and become a nine-time CM later in the day, a source close to him said on Saturday.

Before putting in his papers, he will hold a formal legislature party meeting of the JD(U) and then stake his claim to form the new government with the BJP and its allies. The swearing-in ceremony will be held around 4 pm on Sunday, the source said.

Initially Nitish along with a few leaders of the BJP will take the oath of office. Union home minister Amit Shah and BJP president J P Nadda will be among the prominent BJP leaders participating in the swearing-in ceremony of the new NDA government.

On Saturday, the BJP held a meeting of its core committee in the presence of its Bihar incharge Vinod Tawde. Sources said the BJP will collect consent letters from its all 78 MLAs and hand them over to Nitish before staking his claim to form the NDA government.

Amid the drama, Nitish invited all JD(U) MLAs to his official residence in the evening and shared with them the realignment plan. He was busy with his official programmes earlier in the day.

Sources said Lok Janshakti Party (Ram Vilas) chief Chirag Paswan will also be present at the swearing-in. Chirag was initially hesitant but consented after meeting Shah in New Delhi. Both Nadda and Chirag will arrive in Patna from New Delhi on a chartered flight on Sunday.

Despite power slipping away, RJD leader and Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Prasad Yadav put up a brave face, saying '*Khel baki hain*' (game is still open). The party authorised his dad Lalu Yadav to take the final call on the full-blown crisis.

Another indication of the Grand Alliance falling apart came for JD(U) spokesperson Neeraj Kumar's blistering attack on Lalu over the railway jobs-for-land scam he and his family are involved in.

Akhilesh claims Cong deal on 11 seats; final call not yet, says GOP

NAMITA BAJPAI @Lucknow

THE Congress finally got some positive news on seat sharing for the forthcoming Lok Sabha elections after bickering with the Trinamool Congress and the AAP. Samajwadi Party chief Akhilesh Yadav on Saturday claimed the Congress had settled for 11 Lok Sabha seats in Uttar Pradesh as part of its alliance.

"Our cordial alliance with the Congress is off to a good start with 11 strong seats. This trend will move forward with the winning equation," Yadav said on social media platform X. Last week, the SP did a seven-seat deal with the Jayant Chaudhury-led Rashtriya Lok Dal.

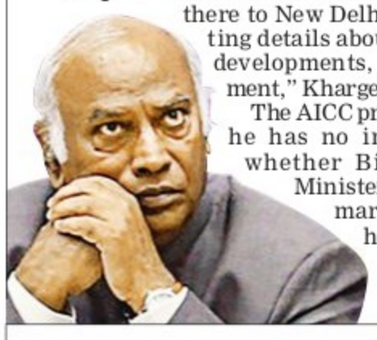
The grand old party (GOP), however, was circumspect.

"Regarding Akhilesh ji's X post, let me make it clear that any decision on seat sharing will be taken by our central election committee headed by Mukul Wasnik, " said UP Congress Committee chief Ajai Rai.

At present, the Congress has only one MP from Uttar Pradesh. If it accepts the deal, the SP will be left with 62 of the total 80 Lok Sabha seats in UP. Sources said during the initial rounds of talks, the Congress had demanded 25 seats, or at least 21 seats it had won in 2009.

Kharge: Will strive to keep I.N.D.I.A intact

Political parties or their leaders, who believe in democracy, should remain in I.N.D.I.A . I will continue my efforts to prevail upon the leaders of I.N.D.I.A to fight against communal forces
Mallikarjun Kharge



RAMAKRISHNA BADSESHI
@ Kalaburagi

AMID rumours of a split in I.N.D.I.A, AICC president Mallikarjun Kharge said on Saturday that he will continue his efforts to keep the alliance intact.

Addressing reporters at the airport here, Kharge said he is not aware of the latest political developments in Bihar.

"If I comment without having any details of the developments there, it will give scope for confusion. I will go to Dehradun on Sunday and from there to New Delhi. After getting details about the latest developments, I will comment," Kharge said.

The AICC president said he has no information whether Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar had met or he is going to meet the governor. "How can I comment when I have no information on the latest developments in Bihar?" he said.

"Political parties or their leaders, who believe in democracy, should remain in I.N.D.I.A . I have written to Nitish Kumar, West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee and CPI(M) secretary-general Sitaram Yechury advocating the need for strengthening I.N.D.I.A to save democracy. I tried to contact Nitish Kumar, but could not. I will continue my efforts to prevail upon the leaders of the constituents of I.N.D.I.A to be united and fight against the communal forces," Kharge said.

Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee working president and Forest Minister Eshwar Khandre, Medical Education Minister Sharanprakash Patil, KKRDB president Ajay Singh and district Congress committee president Jagadev Guttedar were present.

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GOVERNOR'S PROTEST

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan on Saturday stages a sit-in protest in Kollam district against the police's failure to prevent protests by SFI students | P5 | PTI

HC judges give clashing orders, apex court steps in

SUCHITRA KALYAN MOHANTY @ New Delhi

IN a special sitting on a Saturday, a five-judge bench of the Supreme Court headed by the Chief Justice of India (CJI) D Y Chandrachud stayed all proceedings of the Calcutta High Court related to a case on caste certificate scam in MBBS admission after two benches of the high court issued conflicting orders.

The bizarre chain of events began after a single bench of Justice Gangopadhyay handed over the probe in the case to the CBI on Wednesday. A division bench of Justices Soumen Sen and Uday Kumar Ganguly then stayed that order on the same day. Later, on the following day, Justice Gangopadhyay overruled the stay order of the division bench and directed the central agency to go ahead with the investigation. Justice Gandopadhyay accused Justice Soumen Sen of the division bench of acting in the interest of the West Bengal government. Staying further proceedings, the SC posted the matter for Monday.

Major accreditation reforms in higher edu institutes in offing

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE National Accreditation and Assessment Council (NAAC) on Saturday decided to bring in major reforms in its accreditation to higher educational institutions (HEIs) like colleges, universities and recognised academic institutions.

The council has decided to give 'binary accreditation' to institutions, which means they will either be accredited or not accredited; and those accredited, will be given levels from 1 to 5 for excellence in research and education.

The binary accreditation will replace the process of giving grades to encourage all the institutions to get on board in the accreditation process. P5

EXPRESS READ

148.17-km Suburban Rail Project to be extended by 5.5 km

Bengaluru: The Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP), which was planned for 148.17 km, is all set to be extended by 5.5 km. Sources said the state government has already given its consent and now, the Centre's approval is being sought | P2

With 1,106 colleges, B'luru ranks 1st in India

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

BENGALURU Urban district has the highest density of colleges in the country, according to All India Survey on Higher Education (AISHE).

The city, which is known for its startup culture and multinational technology parks, has 1,106 colleges. Jaipur has 703 colleges, Hyderabad 491, Pune 475 and Prayagraj 398, AISHE stated in its recently released report for 2021-22.

Karnataka tops the list of colleges in per lakh eligible population in the age group of 18-23, called college density. "Karnataka (66), Telangana (52), Andhra Pradesh (49), Himachal Pradesh (47), Puducherry (53) and Kerala (46) are the states/UTs which have a high number of colleges per lakh population," the report stated.

In all, Karnataka has 4,430 colleges, securing the third position after Uttar Pradesh and Maharashtra. Yet, Karnataka has only 704 government colleges.

Interestingly, the state's record is impressive as regards the number of teachers from the OBC category, securing second position with 56,472 individuals. Tamil Nadu has 1,47,003 teachers from that category.

Despite having a high college density, the male-female student enrollment ratio in Karnataka is low.

CONTINUED ON: P5

Survey highlights

- Karnataka and TN have the best Pupil-Teacher Ratio
- Karnataka ranks 2nd in OBC teachers (56,472)
- Gross enrollment rises from 23.4% to 25.8%

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WEATHER MIN 16°C | MAX 28°C
FORECAST Cloudy

Sunrise 6.46 am
Sunset 6.18 pm
Moonrise 8.30 pm
Moonset 8.32 am

BIRDING IN THE BACKWATERS

Greater flamingo

The migration of birds to the Almatti Dam not only attracts birders, but also unlocks lessons on conservation

Bar-headed geese

FIROZ ROZINDAR @ Vijayapura

AS November approaches South India, the backwaters of the Almatti Dam, built across River Krishna in Vijayapura and Bagalkot districts, turn into an abode for birds, making it a visual treat for birdwatchers and ornithologists.

There are a range of species that arrive from different regions of the world. Some perch themselves over the green patches, while others can be spotted wading around in the water body, or just waddling about. And they come in different sizes, motley colours and varied anatomical features -- a paradise for birding.

Spending their time feeding on small fish, crabs, insects or smaller creatures found in the river, these birds make the backwaters their home till March, before flying back to where they came from.

HB Doni, Range Forest Officer of Bilagi taluk in Bagalkot district, who is also a bird enthusiast, has been collecting data on migratory birds for several years. He has photographed innumerable birds in their natural habitat across the backwaters, and also captured images of territorial birds in Bilagi.

Oriental pranticole

Indian cormorant

With deep knowledge on the birds, Doni says that until now, his team has identified at least 34 different birds arriving from across the world in the Almatti backwaters and the Krishna's banks.

"We have identified at least eight bird trails, of which seven are in the backwaters, and one, a territorial bird trail in the Chinkara Wildlife Sanctuary in Bilagi taluk. The places include Herkal, Chikkasangam, Beerkatti, Mallapur, Bennur, etc.," he says.

MR Desai, environmentalist and wildlife warden, who has dedicated his life to the protection of wildlife, predominantly migratory birds, informs that these birds fly in from as far as China, Mongolia, Australia, Siberia, Europe, and Alaska.

"They essentially arrive in summer to avoid the harsh winter near the North Pole, where the temperature dips below freezing. There is intense snowfall, with water bodies turning into ice, preventing the birds from finding food. Therefore, before the start of winter, they begin their migration towards the equator, where they find a warmer climate. They fly for at least 7,000 km to reach their desired destinations to feed, breed and hatch their eggs, as they use these places as stopovers," Desai says.

He adds that since the Almatti backwaters cover a 100-km area, vast shallow ponds are created, fostering an ideal ground for birds to move around and pick up food. The birds that temporarily call the backwaters home include flamingos, spoonbills, pintail ducks, river terns, seagulls, bar-headed geese, and Oriental pratincole. During summers, these migratory birds number over 15,000.

Protection of birds

Meanwhile, officials, aware of the constant threat of the birds being hunted, have appointed watchers at different stations. In order to provide a secure habitat to the birds, so they can live naturally without any mortal fear, the entry of heavy vehicles and sand extraction have also been banned in the area. Local farmers have been sensitised about protecting the birds too, and warned of legal action if they choose to harm the creatures or steal their eggs.

"We have deployed staff to prevent poaching. We observe that if these birds are well-protected, more will come, turning this place into a haven for birding and ornithology," Desai says. The officials add that they have recommended the government to declare all the stopovers as protected areas, so that these natural habitats are protected.

Desai also feels that awareness must be generated among the local population, about the importance of these birds, not only to their own ecology, but also to life in general in this region. For instance, the birds could naturally tackle any insect menace impacting local agriculture, while they also help in pollination and flag infections, such as avian flu. Hence, people must be educated not to disturb the birds' natural habitat.

The Almatti backwaters are truly a treasure trove for birding, and a chapter in thoughtful conservation efforts, towards a nature of co-existence.

Bird Festival for awareness

The Karnataka Ecotourism Development Board, in association with the Department of Forest, has organised a three-day 'Bird Festival' in the Almatti backwaters for bird lovers. Workshops and field visits are being organised to introduce participants to these migratory birds and their life. The Board holds such events across the country each year, by selecting a particular bird as the mascot of the region, to educate participants. This year, for the Almatti backwaters, the flamingo was chosen as the mascot, as these birds are found in abundance here. Flamingos have an elongated neck, a lamellated beak (with tooth-like ridges used to strain tiny plants and animals from the water), and webbed feet. They are normally found in Kutch, Gujarat, and have been spotted near the Almatti Dam for several years. Ornithologists say that these birds have so much strength in their wings that they can fly for thousands of kilometres without landing.

PURAN CHOUDHARY @ Bengaluru

Niharika interacts with a tribal woman during her visit to one of the hamlets

PRIDE FOR THE TRIBES

Of the 461 Scheduled Tribes spread across the country, approximately 174 remain unrecognised. Because of this, they have no access to fundamental necessities such as land, water and shelter. These 174 tribal communities face discrimination, harassment and exploitation. While the literacy rate is alarmingly low, the mortality rate is high among them

Niharika Nair

Work with different tribal settlements:

- Nakkupathi Tribal Hamlet, Attapadi
- Anakkal Adivasi Colony, Malampuzha
- Soliga Tribal Hamlet, Gundlupet
- Vadyarchalla Adivasi Colony, Walayar
- Kodava Settlement, Coorg
- Malasa Tribal Colony, Chittur
- Keerehadi N Bilattaru Village, Kabini

Despite their primitive lifestyle, the hamlets live life sustainably. They have windmills as a source of energy. The community is well-versed in understanding plants and their medicinal properties and has well maintained books about them

While India marches towards technological advancement and modernization, there exists a poignant contrast, a silent struggle faced by those who are unable to cope with the dynamic changes of the new world. Tribal colonies in Karnataka and Kerala are caught in a delicate balance between tradition and the adoption of modernity. But they say that every drop in the ocean counts and as Mahatma Gandhi foretold, "In a gentle way, you can shake the world." Niharika Nair, a grade 11 student, has set out to create awareness and highlight the despair of unrecognised tribal colonies.

Pursuing her studies at Ekya Schools in Bengaluru, 17-year-old Niharika is addressing the unnoticed human rights violations with her unique approach through the project 'Tribali.' So far she has impacted over a thousand families, helped them in securing essential documents, organised health camps, and promoted sustainable initiatives.

Speaking to TNSE, on her several visits to the hamlets she said, "They face a lot of eviction from land. Land mafia, forest mafia and deforestation are not uncommon. The laws of the government changed their method of cultivation and lifestyle too."

Niharika highlights that the most affected groups are the ones living deep in the forest and those in hilly areas. They need the government to provide amicable conditions to survive along with education and health care. She adds that they endure a minimum of six daily human rights violations.

Project Tribali

Niharika's project focuses on income generation, cultural preservation and accessing basic fundamental rights for the community. She has been working on this project since Grade 8 and recently presented Tribali at the 7th 1M1B (1 Million for 1 Billion) Active Youth Summit along with the Department of Global Communications, UN. 1M1B engages and enables youth to become future-ready problem solvers creating real-world impact.

So far, Niharika has created an impact by registering the tribal families (1,200 individuals) for Aadhar cards so that they can avail government schemes. She has also organised fundraisers and raised about Rs 40,000 to donate to families in need.

Making a very interesting point on the nutrition of tribal folks Niharika says, "Multiple deaths occur as the nutrition they receive is low, the ration kits only distribute grains. Though newborn babies are taken to the hospital, their mortality rate is low. Malnutrition in Vanavasi (tribal) children is worrisome," she adds.

Tribali has donated solar cookers to hamlets so that they can cook nutritious food and trained them in making artefacts to sustain their livelihoods. Niharika says she has successfully sold handicrafts worth Rs 10,000 in Bengaluru.

Despite their primitive lifestyle, Niharika recalled one of her experiences with tribals, saying they live sustainably and we could learn a lot from them. "They use windmills as a source of energy. The community is well-versed in understanding plants and their medicinal properties. When I visited one of the hamlets they showed me a 300 page book that has information on herbs and plants written in Malayalam," she added.

Creating hamlet awareness

From here on, Niharika's efforts are to create more awareness about these hamlets and to hold an event, showcasing the talents of the marginalised community. Eventually, she wants to build a virtual simulation where one can firsthand experience different cultures and traditions.

Highlighting other challenges faced, Niharika says even though the state governments set aside a handsome amount in each budget, due to the corruption at various levels the development is slow. The biggest problem is also their lack of motivation.

"The tribal students have many schools but lack the motivation to go and study. Some have land but don't use it because they either don't know about the new methods of agriculture or have forgotten whatever their forefathers did. They are skilled in fishing and enjoy painting and drawing. These children should be encouraged to pursue a formal education," Niharika concludes.

Forum flags concerns over transparency, governance

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AHEAD of the Lok Sabha elections, the Forum for Democracy and Communal Amity-Karnataka Chapter (FDCA) raised concerns over the state of Indian democracy and the transparency of the electoral process.

Sharing his views at a discussion held here on Saturday, Trilochan Sastry, the founder trustee of the Association for Democratic Reforms, expressed apprehension about the widening gap between constitutional ideals and ground realities. The discussion highlighted disparities in the implementation of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity, as envisioned in the Constitution.

Criticism was directed at the ruling government's focus on Hindutva and the construction of the Ram Mandir, overshadowing critical issues like economic instability, unemployment, and farmer distress. The BJP party in the parliament was cited as a factor leading to misuse and a decline in the functioning of democratic processes.

Sastry emphasized leveraging Hinduism against Hindutva, pointing out that the real threat to Hindus comes from divisive politics rather than other religions. Other speakers, including Arvind Narrain and Shivasundar, echoed concerns about the rise of fundamentalism and fascism.

Transparency in elections emerged as a critical concern. Doubts were expressed about the fairness of EVMs, with some participants advocating for a return to traditional paper ballots. Electoral bonds also faced scrutiny, with questions raised about donor anonymity and potential unfair advantages enjoyed by the ruling party.

Mohammed Saleem, National general secretary of FDCA urged for increased public awareness about electoral duties and a demand for prompt redressal of transparency concerns by authorities.

SUBURBAN RAIL PROJECT TO BE EXTENDED BY 5.5 KM

S LALITHA @ Bengaluru

BOWING to public demand, the Bengaluru Suburban Rail Project (BSRP) which was planned for 148.17-km is all set to be extended by roughly 5.5 km. It will be effected in two lines in its network: Ranjanakunte-Heelalige (Corridor 4) and Whitefield to Kengeri (Corridor 2). Sources stated that the State government has already given its consent and approval of the Centre is sought now.

This proposal from the State government's Directorate of Urban Land Transport (DULT) has been accepted by the nodal agency implementing the project, the Karnataka Rail Infrastructure Development Enterprises (K-RIDE). It will now be sent to the Railway Board through the South Western Railway (SWR) for its consent.

"DULT proposed extending the Heelalige corridor (Kanaka Line) by nearly one km upto Channasandra. The Kengeri stretch (Parijata line) will be extended towards the Challaghatta side," said a source from K-RIDE. The exact distance will be known only after the feasibility study is done. It has been proposed roughly for 4.5 km as of now," said a DULT official.

The Heelalige line of the suburban rail project which will be extended | EXPRESS

Railway activist Pruthvin Reddy said, locals pressed Social Welfare Minister Narayanaswamy to extend the suburban line when he visited Anekal, Heelalige and Huskur railway stations today. The contract for the 46.88-km Kanaka Line was recently awarded to Larsen & Tourbo Private Limited.

Phase-2 feasibility request submitted again

A senior K-RIDE official told TNIE, "These proposed extensions figured in the 452-km Phase-2 project. The pre-feasibility study we wanted to carry out was rejected by SWR in November 2023. We have submitted the same proposal to SWR on December 28, 2023, asking it to reconsider our request." The official added, "If SWR rejects it again, then we will submit a fresh proposal to the Railway Board through them, to allow us to add this additional 4.5 km. It has got the nod from the State, so only the Centre has to approve it."

PGs must get details of foreigners: New norms

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

TO ensure the safety of inmates residing in Paying Guest (PGs) accommodations across the city, the city police instructed PG owners to follow safety measures suggested by the police department and compulsorily take mandatory trade licenses from the BBMP. Owners who fail to adhere to the guidelines will be held liable, in case of any untoward incident in PG centres. In case of foreigners residing in PGs, the owners have been told to provide information about them to the jurisdictional police directly or online. Details, including name, passport number, visa number, date of arrival in the country, purpose of visit and details of their local contacts should be recorded.

Additional Commissioner of Police (East) Raman Gupta listed out the guidelines on X. They have been framed in accordance with sections of the Karnataka Police Act, thus helping the police keep a tab on those staying in PGs. There are more than 5,000 PGs in South East and Whitefield police divisions which house a majority of IT employees. Besides, there are over 4.5 lakh people who stay in PGs in the city. The guidelines instructed installation of CCTV cameras and implement safety measures to address fire hazards. Moreover, they have also been advised to adhere to the Supreme Court order, restricting the use of loudspeakers between 10pm and 6am. The guidelines also directed for the display of phone numbers of essential services, like local police station, emergency response (112), medical services (103) and cybercrime (1930).

A major fire broke out at a paint and hardware shop in Chickpet Market on Friday night. One person, who was trapped inside, was rescued. It took four hours and five fire tenders to get the blaze under control. The loss is estimated around Rs 25 lakh. The exact reason for the fire is being ascertained, while a short circuit is being suspected

Power supply hit on Metro Purple Line, 20 trips cancelled

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

METRO operations were disrupted on Saturday morning for one hour and 45 minutes as the Emergency Trip System (ETS) at Indira Nagar Metro station developed an issue. Twenty trips could not be run between MG Road and Baiyappanahalli from 9.15 am. Train operations returned to normal by 11 am.

Executive Director, Operations and Maintenance, Bangalore Metro Rail Corporation Ltd (BMRCL), AS Shankar said, "Because of the sudden disruption in power supply, train operations came to a halt at 9.15 am. Our staff carried out various checks of many systems and even patrolled the tracks between Halasuru and Indira Nagar. It was finally found that the ETS had been pressed at Indira Nagar Metro station and it was rectified. It is not clear if any passenger had pressed it or if it had developed some issue."

The time taken to identify the source of the problem delayed restoration of operations. "Because of the holiday weekend, there was less crowd in our trains. A total of 20 trips, ten in each direction, could not be operated We initially thought the issue could be rectified immediately. However, since identifying the issue took some time, we alerted BMTC to operate some buses from MG Road."

Metro trains run on 750V electricity supplied by a third rail track running adjacent to the rail tracks. Power is supplied from different Metro stations to operate the trains.

Police Commissioner B Dayananda at the command centre after inaugurating the project at the Thalaghattapura police station on Saturday | EXPRESS

RWAs fund CCTV project to keep area safe

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

A unique initiative by Changemakers of Kanakapura Road (CMKRA) – the Garuda CCTV project, aimed at enhancing public safety -- was launched by Police Commissioner B Dayananda on Saturday. The Garuda CCTV Command Centre at Thalaghattapura policestation was opened to facilitate monitoring the area and make public announcements instantly.

The command centre comprises nine 55-inch LED wall projections, said an official release from CMKRA. It will keep tabs on 300-plus high-definition 5MP IP CCTV cameras along with an announcement system across the station's limits. CMKRA, a consortium of 80 Resident Welfare Associations (RWAs), funded the project with support from commercial establishments and corporates. In the first phase on Saturday, 101 cameras were installed, the release said.

Lauding the initiative, Dayananda requested CMKRA to support projects on similar lines in other areas in the City.

VK Srivatsa, Secretary, CMKRA said, "The primary objective of this project is to enhance security and safety of the area. With a comprehensive CCTV system in place, we will be able to monitor and deter criminal activity, making the area safer for residents and visitors alike. The project will also improve the effectiveness of law enforcement, enabling quicker response times to incidents and improving the overall security infrastructure of the area."

> With a comprehensive CCTV system in place, we will be able to monitor and deter criminal activity, making the area safer for residents and visitors alike
>
> VK Srivatsa, Secretary, CMKRA

Kiran Kumar, Joint Secretary, CMKRA said, "We have received amazing support from the team at Thalaghattapura police station, led by Inspector N Jagadish, for this project."

DCP, Bengaluru South, Rahul Kumar Shapurwad and ACP SB Girish were present. Rapid Info Solutions is the technology integrator for this project, said an official release from the association.

Woman's son, granddaughter told to pay ₹7L each maintenance to her

Money paid from 2016-19, later two tried to alienate property gifted by petitioner to them

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

THE High Court of Karnataka has come to the rescue of an 85-year-old woman from Kodagu by ordering her son and granddaughter to pay her an annual maintenance of Rs 7 lakh each.

Justice M Nagaprasanna directed that the maintenance amount be paid to petitioner Apparanda Shanthi Bopanna by her third son AB Ganapathy and her late first son's daughter Pooja, residents of Bengaluru.

Shanthi Bopanna had questioned the deputy commissioner's order of March 22, 2022, under the Maintenance and Welfare of Parents and Senior

Citizens Act.

"The order of the DC, which directs payment of maintenance to the petitioner, is sustained with a modification that the son and granddaughter would be entitled to enjoy the fruits of gift deeds executed by the petitioner, subject to the condition that they would pay her maintenance of Rs 7 lakh each every year till her lifetime," the court said, while noting that the petitioner is not in a position to take care of her property after cancellation of the gift deeds.

Shanthi Bopanna, who is a resident of Heroor in Virajpet taluk of Kodagu district, owned 48 acres of coffee estate and was residing in the ancestral house of her husband. Of the 48 acres of estate, her eldest son AB Biddappa took possession of 24 acres.

In 2016, she executed gift deeds in respect of 24 acres in favour of Ganapathy and Pooja, 11 acres each, on the assurance that they would pay her Rs 7 lakh each every year as maintenance. Ganapathy and Pooja paid Rs 7 lakh each to Shanthi Bopanna only till 2019. After learning that Ganapathy and Pooja were making attempts to alienate the property, Shanthi Bopanna initiated legal proceedings before the assistant commissioner, who cancelled the gift deeds in 2021. Later, Ganapathy and Pooja approached the deputy commissioner, who set aside the assistant commissioner's order, stating that nowhere in the gift deeds it is mentioned that the donees would take care of the donor. But the DC directed them to provide amenities and other help along with maintenance amount being paid annually to Shanthi Bopanna till her lifetime.

Ganapathy and Pooja contended before the high court that they will pay Shanthi Bopanna only Rs 10,000 as per Section 24 of the Act or even Rs 25,000 a month and not Rs 7 lakh each every year.

KC General Hospital to be upgraded with ₹150 cr

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

KC General Hospital in Malleswaram will be upgraded at a cost of Rs 150 crore, said Chief Minister Siddaramaiah. Speaking after inaugurating the improved dialysis services, with the introduction of single-use dialysers at the facility, here on Saturday, Siddaramaiah said, "KC General Hospital is one of the oldest hospitals in the city and many patients visit it. Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao said he will submit a proposal in the cabinet meeting to upgrade the hospital, along with a mother and child hospital, a mortuary, and a kitchen. We will approve it."

Talking about the single-use dialysers, Siddaramaiah said with this, there will not be any chances of infections to the patients and added that the government is committed to providing quality healthcare services to the poor and the upgraded dialysis services are one of them.

Free services

Over 800 new single-use dialysis machines will be installed across the state in a public-private partnership. Twenty new single-use dialyser machines have been installed at KC General Hospital, with a capacity to provide dialysis services to 72 patients every day, said Gundu Rao.

Each dialysis cycle will cost Rs 1,573, and the government will bear the cost and provide free services to the patients.

BHAGAVAD GITA DECODED
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Discourses by SUNANDAJI
Daughter-disciple of Swami A. Parthasarathy
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6:45 - 8:00 PM
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Senior Congress leader Shamanur Shivashankarappa's endorsement of BJP MP BY Raghavendra for re-election has sparked sharp criticism from Congress leaders in Shivamogga district. This development unfolds amidst the Congress's ongoing efforts to reclaim this constituency

'HOME BUYERS TECH-SAVVY, BUT DON'T LOOK INTO BASICS'

EXPRESS Dialogues

IN a freewheeling chat with the *TNSE* team, Secretary of Confederation of Real Estate Development Authority of India (CREDAI) **Suresh Hari** shares the present status of the realty industry in Karnataka and the way forward for the sector. He speaks about checks to be done before a buyer invests in a property, changes that work from home culture have brought in and the crucial role the government plays in providing affordable housing etc.

Give us an overview of how the real estate sector is doing in Karnataka.

This is going to be the next big sector of growth in India. Even the American and European markets have identified this. Some of the biggest investors are betting big on Indian real estate today. I read a report that in road infrastructure development, we have overtaken China. We are now heading towards America. Nitin Gadkari (Union minister for road transport and highways) has kicked off a lot of projects and when infrastructure grows, everything grows. Road infrastructure is important, specifically for the real estate sector, as commuting, reachability and mobility become better.

Coming to the real estate scene in India, 2019 was looking really bright for us. By December, it seemed that it was a big leap for the industry. Then, the pandemic knocked at the door and it took a big hit. But interestingly, real estate players at that time went low and not overboard. Two factors contributed to it. One was the issue with labour, which was not available and did not allow us to continue with our work, and second was the market demand. The two years of the pandemic taught us a lesson to realign our portfolio. The remodelling and changes in utilisation of space occurred. Office spaces were assuming a different nature altogether. Employees did not want to sit in the same space for years, and the work from home culture became the in thing. With that, people started moving outside the city and peripheral areas and even to their villages. This indirectly helped city planners as a lot of mobility and transport issues were averted. The industry again picked up. There was not much tumbling in the real estate industry post-pandemic. The ease of doing business at the Central level is good, while many states are coming out with models. Karnataka recently announced architectural certification, which will make ease of doing business better. Self-regulation is better than the regulator regulating it.

Has work from home reduced the demand for office space?

It has to some extent. Work has become hybrid now. People are not stuck 24x7 at home as human relations matter. WFH will not survive for long. It has brought in certain changes in residential conclaves. People look at larger spaces where they can isolate themselves and work and communicate. Or, they can stay inside the house if they can find some space where they can get some privacy.

Coming to Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities, should the government create the infrastructure first and invite the real estate sector to invest or should the investment be made first from the industry side?

It is like the chicken and egg story as to who does it first. Our planning is for the next five years and then we execute it in another ten years. By the time we execute it, it has already overgrown its need. We start planning again. The speed of the work is important and action is important. That is where we lack.

What is the potential for growth and reach here?

Quite a lot. If you take the connectivity between Bengaluru and Mysuru, it is one of the best. Major growth can be expected in Mysuru. Similarly, if you take Hubballi-Dharwad or Davangere, the areas are growing faster now. Hubballi is getting crowded and so you go towards Dharwad. You will go to Belagavi next. Everywhere Tier-2 and Tier-3 cities are picking up.

Has real estate not penetrated deep inside the state?

Not much. We have the CREDAI chapters in ten cities in Karnataka. Growth is happening there. Tumakuru Highway is chock-a-block now because of the flyover issue. It has to be addressed somehow and that road has much potential. Then Tumakuru will become the next big nodal point for growth. If you see the Airport Road, the parcels of land are blocked. No development has taken place physically, but the lands are blocked. Terminal-2 has come up now and empty parcels in between will all grow now. These are possible extensions happening.

If you take other countries, for instance China, the government develops the infrastructure first. It lays roads and sometimes invests in housing and other aspects, and makes people move there. It is possible there as they relocate people compulsorily.

How is the real estate sector looking here compared to other States?

Compared to other cities in the South, Bengaluru is doing well. Hyderabad is next. Weather wise, Bengaluru has the edge.

What should the average buyer look out for before investing in real estate?

Many buyers are tech-savvy, but do not look into basics before buying a house. They do not look at whether a proper plan has been approved. Hardly around 20 per cent of builders belong to CREDAI. People should first check the legality of the papers. We have RERA now, but it should have been there 50 years ago. It has become another parallel regulator now. The problem we really face is the complexity of laws. We have multiple laws and this is leading to multiple interpretations. We should have simple laws. Human interference should be stopped. Self-regulated plan approval is a good step.

The buyer should look at the legality of the title which they are buying. The government has amended many laws. If somebody has developed the land, you should check with the authority. You must check if the parcel of land is genuine or not. That is the first check you must do. You are not investing small money. Check in the neighbourhood area. Check if the plan has been properly approved and whether the building is being done as per plan. Banks are also looking at their clientele but do not assume that they have checked it 100%. But they are not monitoring it on a day-to-day basis. You have to do the due diligence. If you don't do that, you will be paying a price for your negligence.

Despite all the checks, many buyers end up losing their life savings on a regular basis to builders. RERA lacks the teeth to bring them to book. What is your view?

I agree that there is an issue in some cases, but you cannot tar everyone with the same brush. Problems have occurred in some cases. In others, the builder is genuinely facing issues in handing over. The ESCROW account came into place only after RERA came into operation. That is a good move. In some cases, the builder is genuinely facing issues in handing over the project with the cost agreed upon. The builder needs to sit across the table and speak with the buyer. In CREDAI, we used to have the grievances cell and the problems were sorted out at the initial stage. It is an ego issue in some cases.

RERA has created a kind of self-check and has protected the customer to some extent. There is also the other side where the buyers create problems by not making the payment on time.

The government constantly speaks about affordable housing. But it does not seem to be a possibility in Bengaluru as any house within a crore can be bought only in the peripheral areas of the city.

Coming to affordability, parcels of land available in the city are very limited now. In such a situation, the regulator, that is the government, has to play a big role. A regulation was brought in some time ago to reserve a percentage of the development for affordable housing which was rejected by the court. The government should come up with land parcels and demarcate portions for affordable housing, to allow beneficiaries to have the comfort of living. There are interest schemes available and those who are buying these homes should approach the banks and take advantage of these interest schemes.

To give an affordable home within the city is a challenge as the land cost is fixed. It is still worth the investment if one buys a house a bit away from the city if commuting can be managed as the city will definitely reach there in the future. The price of the property will shoot up. The government is the biggest beneficiary of real estate. We tabulated this calculation some time ago. A total of 28 per cent of all your investment goes to the government in some form or the other.

BJP BLUNTS CONG'S EFFORTS TO WIN OVER LINGAYATS

IN a coup of sorts, the BJP managed to get former Chief Minister Jagadish Shettar back into its fold, leaving the ruling Congress leaders in Karnataka stunned. It took the edge off Congress's efforts to win back the support of the dominant Lingayat community voters in the North Karnataka region and gave a big boost to the BJP ahead of the Lok Sabha polls.

Congress has many strong Lingayat leaders, but former CM and Lingayat leader Shettar would have added more strength to its efforts to dent BJP's Lingayat support base. Congress lost that opportunity.

Getting Shettar back into its fold seemed to be part of the BJP's larger game plan to reconsolidate its Lingayat support base, and more importantly, not let the Congress gain any advantage on that front. It also helped the party send a message to the fence-sitters to reconsider their decision to jump ship ahead of Lok Sabha polls.

The latest development yet again showed that the BJP is willing to go any distance to put its Lingayat strategy into play. The party's Lingayat strongman and former Chief Minister BS Yediyurappa is a member of the BJP Parliamentary Board, the highest decision-making body in the party, since August 2022. His son and the party MLA BY Vijayendra was appointed BJP state president in November last year.

They appear to be totally in control of the party affairs in Karnataka with the full backing of the central leadership, which is ironing out any challenges in implementing the party strategy on the ground.

The party's central leaders held talks with former minister and veteran Lingayat leader from South Karnataka, V Somanna, and assuaged him. He was openly airing his views against the state leadership.

The BJP managed to put a lid on MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal's tirade against his party state leaders. The former Union Minister and Lingayat leader from Vijayapura was going ballistic with his allegations against Yediyurappa and Vijayendra. It often caused major embarrassment to the BJP and gave enough ammo to the Congress to fire at the BJP leadership. It is not clear how the party handled the firebrand leader and how long will the truce last.

The state leadership has taken another vocal Lingayat leader MLA Aravind Bellad into confidence by making him Deputy Leader of the Opposition in the State Legislative Assembly. R Ashoka, a Vokkaliga leader from Bengaluru, is the Leader of Opposition in the Assembly.

Shettar, who was CM from July 2012 to May 2013, had left BJP and joined Congress ahead of the May 10, 2023, assembly polls after he was denied a ticket to contest assembly elections from the Hubli-Dharwad Central seat. He contested as a Congress candidate and lost to BJP's Mahesh Tenginakai by a margin of 35,000 votes. The BJP had put all its might to defeat Shettar in that election.

After coming to power Congress made him MLC and appeared to have taken him for granted. Congress leaders' reactions to his exit from the party showed that they were either clueless about the goings-on in their party or were not interested in making any efforts to retain him.

Deputy Chief Minister and state Congress president DK Shivakumar's response indicated both when he expressed surprise over the development and played it down by claiming that it will not have any bearing on the party's prospects.

Shettar's exit may prompt Congress leadership to rethink its Lingayat strategy and consider elevating a community leader as Deputy CM. For now, the party has ruled out the possibility of making more DyCMs, despite the demand from its ministers. Nimble-footed teams that modify their strategies to suit the changing requirements of the game will have an advantage over their competitors. That is true even in politics.

If Shettar's episode was not enough to jolt Congress, in a surprising development, veteran Congress leader and All India Veerashaiva Mahasabha president Shamanur Shivashankarappa openly supported Shivamogga BJP MP BY Raghavendra. He even asked voters to back Yediyurappa's son Raghavendra in the Lok Sabha polls.

The BJP is betting big on the Lingayat factor in the state, while Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership remains the single biggest factor for the party in the Lok Sabha polls. The party will depend on its alliance partner Janata Dal (Secular) to woo Vokkaliga voters in the Old Mysuru region.

Congress will be depending heavily on Siddaramaiah-DK Shivakumar's leadership and seek votes on the state government's performance, especially the implementation of guarantee schemes. But, given the rumblings within the I.N.D.I.A bloc, the challenges for local Congress leadership are only growing as BJP appears to have succeeded in setting a narrative around 'Modi vs who?'

GLOVES ON

LS polls a litmus test for BJP, says BSY

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

FORMER chief minister and BJP Central Parliamentary Board member BS Yediyurappa and his son and state BJP president BY Vijayendra on Saturday tore into Congress and the government in the state at the BJP state Executive Committee meeting, as part of the saffron party's preparation for the LS polls.

Yediyurappa said the Lok Sabha polls will be a litmus test and also a turning point for BJP in Karnataka. "It is a 'satvapariksha' for all of us. The Congress government, which came to power by misleading the people, has already faced infighting and the administration has collapsed because of rampant corruption. No development works are happening. Despite this, they (Congress) have been playing tricks to gain votes by employing wrong ways. We have a challenge to convince people about the reality," he said.

"People are fed up with this government and are cursing it. This government has not been able to wipe the tears of farmers during drought and has not protected the dignity of women. Anarchy is expanding and it is impossible to be a mute spectator. Let's fight on behalf of the people and the state," he thundered.

He attacked Congress for its dual stand on the inauguration of Ram temple. "State Congress leaders were complaining that they had no invitation, whereas the central leaders defied the invitation," he added.

BJP going all out to get its former leaders back

DEVARAJ B HIREHALLI
@ Bengaluru

Senior state BJP leaders, along with Union minister Bhupender Yadav, at the party's Executive Committee meeting in Bengaluru on Saturday | SHASHIDHAR BY RAPPA

THE BJP leadership looks to be resorting to a multi-pronged approach to strengthen its Karnataka unit ahead of the Lok Sabha polls, by bringing those leaders who quit the party back into its ranks. It has also chalked out a strategy to retain those who had planned to exit the party.

Evidently, the leaders at both the national and state levels have taken the initiative, following the advice of the RSS thinktank, which has been playing a sheet anchor role in this regard, sources said.

Union Home Minister Amit Shah managed to pacify the leaders, including former ministers V Somanna and Basanagouda Patil Yatnal, who were sulking over the appointment of former CM BS Yediyurappa's son BY Vijayendra as the BJP state president. Somanna was also preparing to quit, responding to a Congress invitation, but Shah and BJP national president JP Nadda managed to change his mind. He may be placated with either a membership in the Rajya Sabha or by being made the candidate for the Tumakuru Lok Sabha constituency.

While Yediyurappa played a key role in getting former CM Jagadish Shettar back into the party fold, he is also likely to reach out to former Hiriyuru MLA Poornima Srinivas, who had joined the Congress recently, according to sources. "With his son's prestige at stake in the general election and the BJP-JDS alliance wanting to win 28 seats, Yediyurappa is going all out," remarked a BJP leader.

Meanwhile, former minister Shashikala Jolle has taken the initiative to convince former DCM and Athani MLA Laxman Savadi to return to the BJP. Since Yediyurappa was not very enthusiastic, Jolle took up the task on the advice of BJP national general secretary (organisation) BL Santhosh, a source said.

Modi factor pushing I.N.D.I.A bloc break-up, says Union minister

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Bengaluru

UNION Minister for Environment, Forest and Climate Change **Bhupender Yadav** on Saturday slammed Congress, alleging that it continued with its minority appeasement for years to keep its vote bank intact.

He remarked that the opposition alliance, I.N.D.I.A bloc, led by the Grand Old Party (GOP), has started breaking up even before the Lok Sabha elections are announced.

He said Prime Minister Narendra Modi's good governance for the past 10 years by doing away with appeasement politics is one of the factors for parties to distance themselves away from the Congress-led alliance. "Mamata Banerjee in West Bengal closed the doors (on Congress), alliance partner JDU is running away from it in Bihar and Communists in Kerala are getting separated," he said.

Speaking at the state BJP executive committee meeting, he predicted that Modi will become prime minister for the third time with BJP winning 400 seats in the Lok Sabha elections. "Congress which was decimated elsewhere came to power in Karnataka by mistake because of the false guarantees it promised," he commented.

On Chief Minister Siddaramaiah claiming that the Centre has not released the GST compensation due to Karnataka, he said, "The compensation has been given until the time frame the state was eligible for. Up to 2014, the state received Rs 11,000 crore and between 2014 and 2023, the Modi government sanctioned Rs 30,000 crore, but the state government has not utilised it."

He gave a call to party workers to create awareness about it and also the failed guarantees, ahead of the Lok Sabha polls and uproot Congress in Karnataka, like it was rejected in Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh and Rajasthan Assembly polls.

DKS: POSTS TO BOARDS, CORPNS DONE AFTER CONSULTATIONS

ENS @ Bengaluru

DEPUTY Chief Minister DK Shivakumar on Saturday said the appointments to Boards and Corporations were done after taking into consideration everyone's opinion.

"Appointments to Boards and Corporations were finalised only after collecting opinions of all. The chief minister, general secretary, and myself had thoroughly discussed it. Many leaders had even given letters recommending certain people for the positions, but we can't make the letters public," the DCM told reporters.

The DCM said the tenure of these positions is only two years and there will be fresh appointments after two years. "We will give opportunities to fresh faces then. Party leaders and workers have to manage the responsibility given to them. There is no need to worry, hard-working party workers will be rewarded in the next list," he said.

The DCM said 39 MLAs have been accommodated in the first list as per the promises made by the party. "We can't say we have satisfied everyone as there were 2-3 aspirants for each position. Some have been accommodated now and the rest will be accommodated for the next tenure. We will keep our word. We have created new positions to accommodate more workers, who will be given opportunities in hospital committees, bagar hukum committees, ashraya committees, and municipalities," he said.

Responding to to a question on MLA Narendra Swamy's appointment as head of Karnataka State Pollution Control Board, Shivakumar said, "The matter is in the court. He would be accommodated once the case is cleared."

Meanwhile, Bagepalli Congress MLA SN Subba Reddy said he will not assume charge as the Board Chairman of Seed Corporation, stating that he was aspiring for a ministerial berth. Speaking to reporters in Koppal, the DCM responded by saying that not just Reddy, but many others have also declined, including MLAs Tukaram, Tanvir Sait, Raghavendra, and Rizwan Arshad.

UGC issues draft to de-reserve SC/ST posts in edu institutes

EXPRESS EXCLUSIVE

SUBASHINI VIJAYAKUMAR
@Chennai

THE University Grants Commission (UGC) has issued draft guidelines for de-reserving the vacancies meant for SC, ST and OBC candidates in higher education institutes (HEIs) and fill them under general category if enough reserved candidates are not available. The guidelines for implementation of reservation policy in teaching and non-teaching posts of HEIs were released by the UGC on December 27 and the last date for providing public opinion ends on January 28 (Sunday).

The draft states that there is a general ban on de-reservation of reserved vacancies in direct recruitment, but in rare and exceptional cases when a vacancy in Group A post cannot be allowed to remain vacant in public interest, the university concerned may prepare a proposal for de-reservation of the vacancy. Information such as designation of the post, pay scale, name of the service to which the post belongs, duties and responsibilities, educational and other qualifications prescribed for the post, efforts made to fill the post, reasons why it cannot be allowed to remain vacant, and justification for de-reservation must be mentioned in the proposal for de-reservation.

While the proposal for de-reservation for Group C and D posts can be approved by the executive council of the university, for Group A and B posts, the proposal for de-reservation should be submitted to the ministry of education. After receiving the approval, the post may be filled and reservation may be carried forward, the draft said. The draft also says that universities should fill shortfall and backlog in vacancies in reserved posts by calling for recruitment for the second time as soon as possible.

The draft also permits de-reservation in promotions too if sufficient numbers of SC/ST candidates fit for promotion are not available. The power to accord approval for de-reservation of reserved vacancies is delegated to UGC/ministry of education. The draft, once approved, will cover all central universities, deemed-to-be-universities, and other autonomous bodies/institutions under the central government or receiving grant-in-aid from the UGC, central government, or consolidated fund of India. It will supersede "Guidelines for strict implementation of reservation policy of the government in universities, colleges, and other grant-in-aid institutions and centres, 2006" from the date of its notification.

UGC criteria vague, say SC/ST teachers

"Criteria given for de-reservation are vague and universities can state that none of the candidates are suitable and can de-reserve a post. The de-reservation also doesn't require the mandatory opinion from National Commission for SC/STs/Backward Classes," K Kathiravan, president, Universities and Colleges SC/ST Teachers Association

Kerala Guv sits by roadside over SFI stir

Irked at workers waving black flags, Khan calls up Amit Shah, gets Z-plus security, Pinarayi terms it strange

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Kollam/T'Puram

THE stand-off between the Kerala government and the governor took on a new dimension on Saturday after the Union government granted Z-plus security to Arif Mohammed Khan in the wake of the extraordinary wayside sit-in he staged after SFI workers waved black flags at him at Nilamel in Kollam.

Irked by the SFI's protest, Khan, who was on his way to a function, stepped out of his vehicle and confronted the activists. He also called up Union Home Minister Amit Shah and apprised him of the alleged security lapse. Within half an hour, Shah informed Khan of the CRPF security cover granted to him and the Raj Bhavan. "After the governor spoke to the home minister, the PMO and the vice-president also called the former," said an official.

Kerala Governor Arif Mohammed Khan stages a sit-in protest at a tea shop at Nilamel in Kollam district on Saturday | PTI

Responding to the developments, Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan accused Khan of continuously insulting Kerala and the Constitution. He also equated the governor with RSS workers, saying, "In Kerala, there are some RSS workers who have been provided central security. Khan has been included in the list," the CM said.

Terming the handing over of governor's security to the CRPF as "strange", Pinarayi alleged the governor stepping out of his vehicle was against security protocol. The CM clarified that the Centre did not contact him before granting CRPF security to Khan.

"The governor did not have time to read the policy address in the assembly, but has one-and-a-half hours to sit on the road in protest," Pinarayi said, referring to Thursday when Khan wrapped up his policy address to mark the start of the assembly session in one minute and 18 seconds, the shortest in the house's history.

Khan later said he had never sought Central security, and it was a decision taken by the Home Ministry.

It all began around 11am, while Khan was en route to attend an event in Kottarakkara. Upon spotting SFI workers waving black flags at his motorcade, Khan stepped out of his vehicle, rushed towards the protesters and lashed out at them. He then sat on a chair in front of a teashop, while accusing the police of protecting the agitators. He rang up the state police chief and chided him for the alleged double standards in handling protests against him and the CM.

He also directed his staff to call the PMO and Shah's office: "Please connect me to Amit Shah or anyone in the office. Alternatively, connect me to the PMO and get me in touch with Hiren Desai." He wound up his protest after the police handed over a copy of the FIR filed against the protesting SFI workers.

17 SFI workers booked

The police booked 17 SFI workers in connection with the protest and later arrested 12 of them. They have been charged with assaulting the governor (IPC Section 124), unlawful assembly (143), among others. SFI state president P M Arsho said Khan's accusations will not dampen the outfit's morale.

COURTESY CALL

A delegation of priests, led by Syriac Orthodox Church head Moran Mor Ignatius Aferem-2, meets Chief Minister Siddaramaiah in Bengaluru on Saturday. Archbishop of Bengaluru Rev Peter Machado and Energy Minister KJ George look on | EXPRESS

POLLUTION VIOLATION

K'taka govt orders closure of Yatnal's sugar factory

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@ Belagavi/Kalaburagi

IN a major development, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board has ordered the closure of a sugar factory, owned by Vijayapura BJP MLA Basangouda Patil Yatnal, at Chimmaidalai village of Chincholi taluk in Kalaburgi district.

According to sources, the Siddashri Sugar Factory has been ordered shut down for allegedly releasing contaminated water from the mill into the Mulamari dam.

Sources said the board has instructed the departments concerned to halt the supply of water and power to the factory for violating government guidelines. "The decision to initiate action against the factory was taken only after complaints from farmers that contaminated water was being released into the dam," a source said.

Meanwhile, Yatnal said he will not be cowed down by such action of the government and will launch a legal battle to keep the factory open. Taking to X, he said the Congress-led government issued the closure notice for his factory as the party was unable to face him politically.

Yatnal said he had established the factory in a backward region with an objective to create jobs for the local people. It will not help anybody if the factory is closed for no logical reasons, he added.

Siddashri Sugar Factory at Chimmaidalai of Chincholi taluk in Kalaburgi district

Meanwhile, Forest and Ecology Minister Eshwar Khandre defended the government's action.

"Yatnal's factory crushed lakhs of tonnes of sugarcane without getting permission from the authority concerned. The Union government had penalised Yatnal Rs 1.5 crore for violating the Environmental Protection Act a year back. Yatnal has paid the penalty amount. When this is the case, the allegations levelled by Yatnal that the state government's action was due to political reasons is baseless," Khandre told reporters in Kalaburagi on Saturday.

In a meeting of the pollution control board held a week back, Khandre had asked officials to find out how many factories violated the Environment Protection Act and sought a report on the violators. Based on the report, the government started taking action against factories for polluting air and water, Khandre clarified.

Karnataka tops in number of foreign students

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

AMONG the top 10 states, Karnataka ranks eighth with 12,58,004 male and 11,78,536 female students. Uttar Pradesh, Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu are placed better.

The estimated student enrolment at various levels such as postgraduate (PG), Masters, Ph.D and diploma courses in the past five years has been on the decline compared to the academic year 2020-21. However, because of other disciplines, the state's gross enrollment increased from 23.4% in the previous year to 25.8%.

Karnataka has 9.4% of the total teachers in the country. Of the total teachers from the Muslim community, Karnataka has 10.4%.

The survey highlighted that among the top six states in terms of enrolment, Tamil Nadu and Karnataka have the best pupil-teacher ratio (PTR) of 14 and 15 each in all institutions, including universities and colleges.

Based on the responses from universities that participated in the survey, AISHE reported that under the foreign category, students from 170 countries come to India to pursue higher education.

Most of them are from neighbouring countries. Nepal's share is 28%, followed by Afghanistan's 6.7%. Karnataka tops the list with the highest number of foreign students pursuing PG, PhD, M.Phil, UG, Diploma and PG Diploma courses.

'One Nation One Data Platform' to be implemented

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

THE other reform — to introduce levels — set to take place is the Maturity-Based Graded Accreditation (Levels 1 to 5).' From Level 1 to Level 4, the HEIs will be marked as "National Excellence", and for Level 5, they will be given the tag of "Global Excellence" for multidisciplinary research and education based on different parameters.

]"The levelled accreditation shall enable Indian institutions to significantly improve their quality and position themselves among global top institutions," said the executive committee of NAAC, which conducts assessment and accreditation of HEIs to derive an understanding of the quality status of the institutions.

The metrics for both binary and maturity-based graded accreditation will focus on processes, outcomes and impact across different attributes of HEIs. The new process will also consider the heterogeneity of HEIs and categorize them based on their vision and legacy. Based on these, the institutions will be allocated categories rather than a one-size-fits-all model, said the release.

"One Nation One Data Platform" will also be implemented to ensure integrity and transparency in handling institutional data. The system will improve the validity and reliability of the data through stakeholder validation for the ranking process. Though the technology-driven modern system will require minimal visits to institutions for verification, heavy penalties will be charged for wrong submissions, the release said.

The final report, incorporating several feedback received from stakeholders, was accepted by the Ministry of Education on January 16. NAAC will implement the report titled "Transformative Reforms for Strengthening Periodic Assessment and Accreditation of All HEIs in India' in two stages. In the first stage, the binary accreditation will be implemented in the next four months and no new applications will be accepted as per the present methodology.

"Institutions that have already applied and are applying in the next four months shall have the option to either go by the present process or by the new methodology of binary accreditation. The maturity-based graded levels will be implemented by December 2024," said the release.

The reforms are said to be in line with suggestions by the overarching committee headed by K Radhakrishnan, former chairman of Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and chairperson, standing committee of Indian Institutes of Technology (IIT) Council, constituted in November 2022.

With second-hand cycle, youth brings laurels

SREENU BABU PATIVADA
@ Vizianagaram

TWENTY-two year old Damarasingi Ganesh has cleared several hurdles on his way to secure seven medals, including three gold, at several State-level cycling competitions. He was able to achieve all this with a second-hand bicycle that youngsters in his village bought for him after pooling money.

Although he has participated in several national and international-level competitions, his financial condition has prevented him from forging ahead. So far, his parents, both daily wage workers, have supported him in his career as neither the government nor any sponsors have come forward to help him. His sister, Revathi, had to give up pursuing a career in cycling due to the family's financial constraint. She had won three medals in various State-level competitions. Now, she is undergoing training as a nurse so she can help her brother.

A native of R Vasantha village under Gantyada mandal in Vizianagaram district, Ganesh was interested in swimming and cycling since he was a child. His was selected for the Vizianagaram Academy run by the Sports Authority of Andhra Pradesh (SAAP) in 2018. He underwent training for swimming for two years. However, later his coaches advised him to try his luck with cycling. He started training for cycling three years ago. Unfortunately, the academy shut down due to Covid pandemic.

His passion only pushed him further to purse a career in cycling without a coach. He trained using the bicycle villagers bought for him with ₹45,000.

EXPRESS READ

Man nabbed while fleeing after robbing two

Bengaluru: One of the two robbers, who were fleeing after robbing two victims in separate incidents, was chased and nabbed by passersby in HAL police limits. The incident occurred at AECS Layout a few days ago. The accused had robbed 23-year-old Sagar Kumar and 34-year-old Avinash Selvaraj early in the morning. Kumar, a native of Bihar and resident of AECS Layout, was heading to work when he was robbed on 3rd Main of AECS Layout in Kundalahalli. Meanwhile, Selvaraj was robbed on 1st Main of AECS Layout soon after. Both the robberies happened within a span of 10 minutes, and the accused attempted to flee on a two-wheeler. "After Selvaraj was robbed, he started screaming for help. Passersby who heard the screams chased the accused, and managed to nab one of them, identified as Vasanth. He was riding the two-wheeler. The other accused, who managed to escape has been identified as Keerthi," said an officer part of investigations. The accused are suspected to have been involved in a series of robberies in the Whitefield division. ENS

8-yr-old riding pillion comes under lorry wheels

Hyderabad: An eight-year-old girl's life ended tragically on Saturday morning in Adikmet, Nallakunta, after a lorry carrying gas cylinders collided with the two-wheeler on which she was on her way to school. Her father Abdul Nadeem was driving the two-wheeler when the mishap occurred. According to sources, the victim was identified as Fathima who was in her second standard in an Islamic school. Nadeem, 31, a driver living in the Osmania Police Station limits, took his daughter on his two-wheeler to drop her off at her school. They alighted the flyover and as they were reaching the Hanuman temple after the police station, a DCM, loaded with LPG cylinders, hit their bike from the rear. Under the impact, Fatima fell off the two-wheeler and came under the tyres of the van. Nadeem sustained minor injuries in the accident and was moved to hospital. The accused lorry driver has been taken into custody. ENS

Fortis Summit unveils advances in oncology

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @Bengaluru

FORTIS Healthcare inaugurated the Fortis Cancer Summit with the theme 'Practice Changing Advances in Precision Oncology' on Saturday. The event aimed at revolutionising cancer treatment by showcasing innovations across all aspects of cancer care. The summit focused on advancements in screening, diagnostics, prognostics, therapeutics, homecare, and end-of-life care and highlighted the progress that could reshape the future of cancer management.

The summit had a congregation of over 800 specialists and faculty from national and international domains, including over 250 experts from various oncological disciplines who will participate in collaborative sessions for two days.

Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao underscored the importance of early cancer detection. While overcoming stigma in rural areas poses a challenge, advancements like AI can contribute to solutions, the minister said.

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY
Tender Notice No. 01/SBC/24
Dated: 19-01-2024
The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Item of Work	Appx. Value
KSR Bengaluru: Construction of Quarters and Conversion of rooms to Officers Rest House in KSR Bengaluru area. Maintenance period is 12months.	Rs. 6,73,67,081/-

Last date for submission of bids: Up to 15:00 hrs. of 12.02.2024
For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in
Senior Divisional Engineer / Co-Ord
PUB/655/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24 Bengaluru
South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving to Mother of Perpetual Help, Bless Suhas Antony with Good health, knowledge and Protection. Continue to bless our family. Amen

MAHARASHTRA METRO RAIL CORPORATION LTD.
(A joint venture of Govt. of India & Govt. of Maharashtra)
"Metro Bhavan", VIP Road, Near Dikshabhoomi, Ramdaspeth, Nagpur-440010. E-mail : md.nmrcl.tenders@gmail.com
Tender Notice No. N2-020/C-08/2023 Dt. 25.01.2024
Name of work : Construction of 6 Nos Elevated Metro Stations (Cantonment, Kamptee Police Station, Kamptee Municipal Council, Dragon Palace, Golf Club and Kanhan River Metro Station) between Ch. -7576.78m m to Ch -13457.76m in Reach 2B of NMRP Phase 2.
Cost of Documents : INR 1,18,000/- (inclusive of GST).
Date Of Prebid Meeting : 15.02.2024
Interested Bidders may visit www.mahametro.org or CPP Website : https://eprocure.gov.in for NIT. Bid documents can be downloaded from https://mahatenders.gov.in from 16.00 Hrs on 31.01.2024.
Executive Director/ Procurement
Maha-Metro
Nagpur Metro : City's Transport Solution

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

Tender Notice No. CAO/CN/BNC/100/2024 Dated: 23-01-2024

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, invites E-tenders for the following work.

Item of Work	Appx. Value
Collection supply and stacking of machine crushed hard, durable, graded angular, cubical graded stone ballast conforming to Railway specifications from Km. 210.500 to Km.257.600 between Shahapur and Wadi Stations including Shahpur, Sirwal, Biral Buzurg, Narboli station yards. **(Tender Ref. No.GDG-WD-55)**	**Rs. 22,62,53,081/-**

Last date for submission of bids: **Up to 15:00 hrs. of 14.02.2024**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Deputy Chief Engineer / Construction Works / Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/654/AAV/PRB/SWR/2023-24

South Western Railway-SWR SWRRLY SWRRLY

punjab national bank

Circle SASTRA Bangalore : No.26-27, Raheja Towers, (I Floor), M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001. Tel No. 080-25095087. e-mail : cs8191@pnb.co.in

CORRIGENDUM NOTICE

With reference to the Auction Notice published for e-Auction scheduled on **15.02.2024 from 11.00 Am to 5.00 PM** in this Newspaper on **27.01.2024,** in Page No.6 and **SI No.3** it is informed to the public at large that the **e-Auction Notice date and Possession Type of Borrower Mr. T M Musavir is to be corrected to read as 15.02.2024 and Symbolic Possession instead of 15.02.2023 and Physical Possession.** All other matter remain the same.

Place: Bangalore
Date : 27.01.2024

Sd/- AUTHORISED OFFICER & CHIEF MANAGER
PUNJAB NATIONAL BANK (SECURED CREDITOR)

MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking)

Opp. Bandra Reclamation Bus Depot, Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050
Tel.: 26517938, **E-Tender Portal:** https://mahatenders.gov.in
Website: www.msrdc.in **email :** coastalroad.msrdc@gmail.com
CIN No. U45200MH1996SGC101586

MSRDC

E-TENDER NOTICE

Construction of Multi-Purpose Cyclone Shelters at Village Usarni and Village Yadvan in Tal. Palghar & 01 Location in Mira-Bhayndar Dist. Thane in Maharashtra.

Online digitally signed offers are invited by MSRDC from the interested parties for the above work for 15 calendar months including monsoon.

- The offer document can be viewed/downloaded through e-tendering portal, **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from 29.01.2024 to 20.02.2024.
- The last date of submission is 20.02.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
- The pre-bid meeting will be held on 09.02.2024 at 15:00 p.m. at MSRDC, Bandra, Mumbai - 50.
- Bid Security, in the form of Bank Guarantee Rs 13,15,350/- plus GST (Refundable) and Tender fee of Rs. 3,000/- plus GST and original copy of Power of Attorney, Bidding Agreement, etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 20.02.2024 (at 14:00 Hrs. IST).
- Guidelines to download the Tender Document and online submission of bids can be downloaded from website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**
- Right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever is reserved with MSRDC.

Vice Chairman & Managing Director, MSRDC Ltd., Mumbai

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR LOST DOCUMENT

My Clients Mr. S. RADHAKRISHNA & his son Mr. B.R. DARSHAN. Both R/at #. 30, 7th 'C' Cross, 16th Main, 4th 'B' Block, Koramangala, Bangalore-30, lost four (4) original Sale Deeds in respect of the land bearing Sy. No.102/3 & 112/3 of Kodathi village, Varthur Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, i.e., (1) Sale Deed dated 29-11-2006, document No. BAS-1-22822/2006-07, (2) Sale Deed dated:12-10-2007, Document No: VRT-1-03581/2007-08, (3) Sale Deed dated: 30-11-2006, Document No: BAS-1-22974/2006-07, (4) Sale Deed dated:12-10-2007, Document No: VRT-03580/2007-08.

If any person/s found the said sale deeds please hand over the same to the under signed, will be suitably rewarded. If anyone has already carried out any transaction or any transaction is in the process of being carried out using the missing document, kindly inform the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within 07 days from to-day. Else there won't be any further claims from thereon.

SOMANNA, Advocate,
#.9, 12th 'A' Cross, 16th Main,
Opp: MICO Layout PS, BTM Layout 2nd Stage,
Bangalore- 560 076.
Ph No. 98453 17766, Ph No.94480 55341

GOVERNMENT OF ODISHA
OFFICE OF THE CHIEF CONSTRUCTION ENGINEER
RURAL WORKS CIRCLE BOLANGIR

O-2291

e Procurement Notice

1.	Name of work	:	Construction of Bridge in the district of Bolangir / Subarnapur under BSY for the year 2023-24
2.	No. of work	:	4 (Four) bridge works.
3.	Time for completion	:	12 (Twelve) calender months.
4.	Approximate estimated cost varies from	:	Rs.194.16 lakhs to Rs. 441.75 lakhs
5.	Mode of Submission of tender	:	Tender should be submitted online in www.tendersodisha.gov.in
6.	**Other details are as follow**		

Procurement Officer	Bid Identification No.	Availability of Tender on line for bidding		Last date and time of seeking tender clarification	Date & time of opening of tender	
		From	To		Technical Bid	Financial Bid
Chief Construction Engineer, R.W.Circle, Bolangir	BLGR-Online-43/2023-24	02.02.2024 At 11.00 A.M.	16.02.2024 up to 5.00 P.M.	15.02.2024 upto 5.00 P.M.	17.02.2024 at 11.00 A.M.	The date will be intimated to the technically qualified bidders later on

- Further details can be seen from the website **www.tendersodisha.gov.in**
- Any Corrigendum/Addendum will be displayed in the above e tender website only.

Sd/- Chief Construction Engineer, R.W. Circle, Bolangir OIPR- 25118/11/0072/2324

YOU WILL NEVER WIN IF YOU NEVER BEGIN
HELEN ROWLAND
QuoteExpress

राष्ट्रीय ग्रामीण विकास एवं पंचायती राज संस्थान

MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT, GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

NIRDPR

NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT & PANCHAYATI RAJ

Rajendranagar, Hyderabad-500030

INVITES APPLICATION FOR CAREER IN RURAL DEVELOPMENT MANAGEMENT

ADMISSION NOTIFICATION

1. AICTE Approved Post Graduate Diploma in Management - Rural Management (PGDM-RM) 2024-26, 2-Years Residential Programme.

Eligibility : Bachelor's Degree with at least 50% Marks (45% for SC/ST/PWD) and a Valid Score in any of the qualifying exams: CAT / XAT / MAT / CMAT / GMAT / ATMA. Shortlisted candidates shall be called for Group Discussion and Personal Interviews for final selection.

i) Last date: 21.04.2024 ii) Commencement of Course : July 2024

2. PG Diploma in Rural Development Management (PGDRDM) 2024- 25, 1-Year Residential Programme.

Eligibility : Bachelor's Degree with at least 50% Marks (45% for SC/ST/PWD)
Selection (PGDRDM): Shortlisted candidates based on their graduation marks shall be called for group discussion and personal interview for final selection.

i) Last date : 21.04.2024 ii) Commencement of Course : July 2024

Optional International Practicum Available

Further details: **www.nirdpr.org.in** or **Email: cpgs.nird@gov.in / 91-9866107450**

Advt.No.03/2024
Comp. no. 7626

Sd/- **Coordinator (Admissions), CPGS & DE**

BENGALURU SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT LIMITED

(Government of Karnataka Undertaking)
Reg, Office : 30/1, 1st and 2nd Floor, UNI Building, Thimmaiah Road,
Millers Tank Bund Area,Vasanthanagar, Bengaluru - 560 061
CIN: U37100KA2021SGC147734, TAN:BLRB21071B, PAN:AAJCB8656M
Email-Id: nodalofficerswm@gmail.com

Ref.: CGM(Tech)/BSWML/PR/245/2023-24 **Dated:24.01.2024**

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Solid Waste Management in BBMP limits is primary responsibility of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike. The Ministry of Environment, Forest & Climate Change in exercise of the powers conferred under section 3, 6 & 25 of the Environment (Protection) Act 1986 has notified Solid Waste Management Rules-2016 in Gazette Notification No.: GSR 45(E), Division-2, Sub-Setcion-1, dated:03.06.2015 and enacted from 08.04.2016.

Whereas, the local authorities to notify SWM Bye- Laws as per rule-15(zf) and accordingly, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagar Palike notified SWM Bye-Laws in Gazette Notification No.: Addl.Comm/SWM/PR/G-/9266/2019-20, dated:20.04.2020.

Whereas, rule-4(3) states about payment of user fees by waste generators as notified in SWM Bye-Laws and also, rule-15(f) states about collection of user fees by local authorities from waste generators.

Further, Hon'ble National Green Tribunal, Principal Bench, New Delhi has also directed and stressed upon implementation of "Polluter Pays Principle" in its several judgment orders issued in OA No.:606/2018.

In view of collection, transportation and processing of MSW generated in the limits of Bengaluru(Urban) area including BBMP limits, the Government has formed a Government Undertaking SPV named Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited registered under the Companies Act 2013 and formed vide GO No.: UDD 256 MNY 2020, dated:05.03.2021.

In exercise of the powers conferred under section 285 of BBMP Act 2020, BBMP SWM Bye-Laws 2020 and rule-15(f) of SWM Rules 2016, the Board of Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited has decided to levy user fees on waste generators and same be collected w.e.f. 01.01.2024.

In this connection, the **Waste Generators {Commercial Waste Generators)/ Institutional Waste Generators/Bulk Waste Generators}** are hereby informed to submit an affidavit in **prescribed format (on E-Stamp of Rs.100/- Stamp Duty) within 30 days** from the date of publication of this public notice. The format of affidavit can be downloaded from the below links by scanning the QR Codes or by visiting website of BBMP : **www.bbmp.gov.in** and shall be submitted to **O/o of CGM(Tech)/CE, Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited, #30/1, 1st Floor, UNI Building, Timmaiah Road, Millers Tank Bund Road, Vasanth Nagar, Bengaluru-560052,** failure to do so, the BBMP/BSWML will impose penalty/fine in accordance with BBMP SWM Bye-Laws 2020.

LINKS TO DOWNLOAD AFFIDAVIT:

https://docs.google.com/document/d/1vn4UmHNbOBPcDfBsgSBO9o0Wy_qH-4Ba/edit#heading=h.gjdgxs

Or scan here to download.

As per the approval of Hon'ble Chief Commissioner, BBMP and MD, BSWML

Sd/-
Chief General Manager(Tech)/CE
Bengaluru Solid Waste Management Limited

DIPR/CP/JA/3258/2023-24

MAHARASHTRA STATE ROAD DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION LTD.

(A Govt. of Maharashtra undertaking)

Opp. Bandra Reclamation Bus Depot, Bandra (W), Mumbai - 400 050
Tel.: 26517938, **E-Tender Portal:** https://mahatenders.gov.in
Website: www.msrdc.in **email :** coastalroad.msrdc@gmail.com
CIN No. U45200MH1996SGC101586

MSRDC

E-TENDER NOTICE

Construction of flood Damage mitigation measures at Hirikaniwadi Tal. Mahad Dist. Raigad.

Online digitally signed offers are invited by MSRDC from the interested parties for the above work for 12 calendar months including monsoon.

- The offer document can be viewed/downloaded through e-tendering portal, **https://mahatenders.gov.in** from 29.01.2024 to 12.02.2024.
- The last date of submission is 12.02.2024 upto 15:00 hrs.
- The pre-bid meeting will be held on 05.02.2024 at 15.00 p.m. at MSRDC, Bandra, Mumbai - 50.
- Earnest Money, in the form of Bank Guarantee Rs 6,98,000/- plus GST (Refundable) and Tender fee of Rs. 3,000/- plus GST and original copy of Power of Attorney, Bidding Agreement, etc. shall be submitted physically by the Bidder on or before 12.02.2024 (at 14.00 Hrs. IST).
- Guidelines to download the Tender Document and online submission of bids can be downloaded from website **https://mahatenders.gov.in**
- Right to accept or reject any or all the offers without assigning any reason whatsoever is reserved with MSRDC.

Vice Chairman & Managing Director, MSRDC Ltd., Mumbai

यूनियन बैंक **Union Bank of India**

CLUB ROAD, KORAMANGALA BRANCH, No.83, 17D Main, 6th Cross, 6th Block, Koramangala Bangalore – 560095, Ph: 9372706202
E-mail: ubin0906204@uniionbankofindia.bank

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **" As is where is", " As is what is " and " whatever there is"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Name and address of the Secured Creditor : Union Bank of India, KORAMANGALA BRANCH, No.83, 17D Main, 6th Cross, 6th Block, Koramangala Bangalore – 560095.

Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: Borrowers: 1) M/s GVR Constructions, No.3, Venkateswara Layout, Opp. To Mega More Supermarket, Mahadevapura Outer Ring Road, Bangalore -560048. **2) Mr. Vasu Gadiraju** S/o G Chenchu Raju No 403, 4th Floor, Sparrow Nest Apartment, 1st Main Road, Anugraha Layout, Mahadevapura Bangalore-560016. **Guarantor/s 3). Mrs. P. Lakshmi Prathima** W/o G Vasu No 403, Sparrow Apartment, 1st Main Road, Anugraha Layout, Mahadevapura Bangalore-560016

Amount due: Amount due: Rs. 94,30,675/- (Rupees Ninety Four Lakhs Thirty Thousand Six Hundred And Seventy Five Only) as on **31.12.2023** + Future Interest + Other Legal expenses.

Schedule 'A' Property : Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of Southern portion of Site No.2, Katha No.257, formed in Property No.3, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 15 Feet, totally measuring 600 Square Feet, situated at Mahadevapura, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore presently under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Mahadevapura Zone, HAL- Airport Sub-Zone, Ward No.81, Vignananagar, Bangalore and bounded by: East By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy; West By: Road; North By: Property belongs to Sri.Vasu Gadiraju (earlier belongs to Sri. Manjunath M); and South By: Site No. 1 belongs to Smt. Revathy.

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of Northern portion of Site No.2, Katha No.258, formed in Property No.3, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 15 Feet, totally measuring 600 Square Feet, situated at Mahadevapura, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore presently under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Mahadevapura Zone, HAL-Airport Sub-Zone, Ward No.81, Vignananagar, Bangalore bounded by: East By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy; West By: Road; North By: Property belongs to Sri. Ramesh; and South By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy;

Item No.3: All that piece and parcel of Site No.1, Katha No.257, formed in Property No.3, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Square Feet, situated at Mahadevapura, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore presently under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Mahadevapura Zone, HAL-Airport Sub-Zone, Ward No.81, Vignananagar, Bangalore and bounded by: East By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy, West By: 25 Feet Road, North By: Property belongs to Sri.Ramesh; and South By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy;

Schedule 'B' Property (Mortgaged Property)
232 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property.(Item No.I, II & III)

Schedule 'C' Property (Mortgaged Property) : All that piece and parcel of the Flat No.401 in the Fourth Floor, having Super Built Up Area of 1086 Square Feet containing 2 BHK together with one covered car parking space in the apartment building known as "SAI PARADISE'. constructed in the Schedule Item No.1, II & III Property.

Property 2: (Ownership - Mrs. Lakshmi Prathima - Guarantor)

Schedule 'A' Property : Item No.1: All that piece and parcel of Southern portion of Site No.2, Katha No.257, formed in Property No.3, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 15 Feet, totally measuring 600 Square Feet, situated at Mahadevapura, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore presently under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Mahadevapura Zone, HAL- Airport Sub-Zone, Ward No.81, Vignananagar, Bangalore and bounded by: East By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy; West By: Road, North By: Property belongs to Sri.Vasu Gadiraju (earlier belongs to Sri. Manjunath M) and South By: Site No. 1 belongs to Smt. Revathy

Item No.2: All that piece and parcel of Northern portion of Site No.2, Katha No.258, formed in Property No.3, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 15 Feet, totally measuring 600 Square Feet, situated at Mahadevapura, K.R. Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore presently under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Mahadevapura Zone, HAL-Airport Sub-Zone, Ward No.81, Vignananagar, Bangalore and bounded by: East By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy; West By: Road; North By: Property belongs to Sri. Ramesh; and South By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy;

Item No.3: All that piece and parcel of Site No.1, Katha No.257, formed in Property No.3, measuring East to West 40 Feet and North to South 30 Feet, totally measuring 1200 Square Feet, situated at Mahadevapura, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore presently under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Mahadevapura Zone, HAL-Airport Sub-Zone, Ward No.81, Vignananagar, Bangalore and bounded by: East By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy, West By: 25 Feet Road, North By: Property belongs to Sri. Ramesh; and South By: Property belongs to Sri. Venkataswamy;

Schedule 'B' Property (Mortgaged Property) : 247 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property (Item No.I, II & III)

Schedule 'C' Property (Mortgaged Property) : All that piece and parcel of the Flat No.402 in the Fourth Floor, having Super Built Up Area of 1156 Square Feet containing 2 BHK together with one covered car parking space, constructed with RCC roof, Vitrified Tiles flooring, wooden Door with civic amenities and proportionate share in common areas such as Passage, Lobbies, Staircase, Lift contained in the Apartment Building known as in the apartment building known as "SAI PARADISE', constructed in the Schedule Item No. I,II & III Property.

Property 3: (Ownership - Mr. Vasu Gadiraju)

Schedule 'A' Property: All that piece and parcel of residential sites bearing No.6 & 7, CMC Katha No.386/1, (Previously part of property No. 180/3), bearing BBMP Katha No.421/91/40/14/386, situated at I Main Road, Anugraha Layout, Mahadevapura, K.R.Puram Hobli, Bangalore East Taluk, Bangalore presently under the limits of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike, Mahadevapura Zone, HAL-Airport Sub-Zone, measuring East to West 80 Feet and North to South 60 Feet, totally measuring 4800 Square Feet and bounded by: East By: Site No.8;West By: Site No.5;North By: 30 Feet Road and South By: Sri. Bachappa's Property:

Schedule 'B' Property (Mortgaged Property) : 244 Square Feet of undivided share, right, title and interest in the Schedule 'A' Property.

Schedule 'C' Property (Mortgaged Property) : All that piece and parcel of the Flat No.403 in the Fourth Floor, having Super Built Up Area of 1096.65 Square Feet containing 2 BHK together with one covered car parking space, constructed with RCC roof, Vitrified Tiles flooring, with all civic amenities and along with proportionate share in common areas such as Passage, Lobbies, Staircase, Lift contained in the Apartment Building known as in the apartment building known as "SPARROW NEST", constructed on Schedule 'A' Property.

Date and time of E-Auction: 14.02.2024 from 12:00 Noon to 5:00 P.M. (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions) E-auction website-www.mstcecommerce.com.
Last date for submission of EMD : The Bidders shall keep sufficient balance in their MSTC Global Wallet not less than the EMD amount to participate in the online Bid on or before the commencement of eAuction
Reserve price: 1st Property - Rs.36,50,000/- 2nd Property : Rs. 38,74,000/- 3rd Property : Rs. 36,84,000/- Lakhs
Earnest Money to be Deposited: 1st Property - Rs.3,65,000/- 2nd Property : Rs 3,87,400/-, 3rd Property : Rs 3,68,400/- Lakhs

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in
(1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) www.unionbankofindia.co.in
The intending purchaser require to register through :
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp
The online E-auction will be held through website: **sarfaesi@unionbankofindia.com.**
For E-auction Related queries Please contact : 9000980154.

Date: 25.01.2024
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

ADMINISTRATION OF UNION TERRITORY OF LAKSHADWEEP (DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH SERVICES) KAVARATTI-682555

F.No.42/5- 2023-24-DHS Dated: 15.01.2024

Re - E-Tender Notice

Re-E-Tender are invited for transportation, loading and unloading of departmental material / medicine cases from Medical Store Kochi to Ship & vice versa. The tender notice can be downloaded from the web site **www.tendersutl.gov.in, www.laksahdweep.gov.in** further details can be seen from the same site.

(Dr.Shrikant R.Tapdiya (DANICS)
Director Health Services
U.T of Lakshadweep

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

Construction Organization, Ernakulam Jn.

1. Tender Notice No: 01-CE-CN-ERS-2024-PMS Dated 20.01.2024

Name of work: Providing Project Management Services for the work of Redevelopment of **Kozhikode Railway station.**

Tender Value	Rs 931.58 Lakhs
Bid Security	Rs. 6,15,800/-
Completion Period	60 Months
Pre bid meeting	06/02/2024
Date and time of tender closing	**05/03/2024**

2. Tender Notice No. 02-CE-CN-ERS-2024-PMS Dated 20.01.2024.

Name of work: Providing Project Management Services for the work of Redevelopment of **Varkala Railway Station.**

Tender Value	Rs. 649.74 Lakhs
Bid Security	Rs. 4,74,900/-
Completion Period	54 Months
Pre bid meeting	06/02/2024
Date and time of tender closing	**05/03/2024**

3. Tender Notice 03-CE-CN-ERS-2024-OT Dated 24.01.2024

Name of work: Proposed reconstruction of ROB No.72, 94, 99, 120, 125 & 134 between **Neyyattinkara - Parassala stations.**

Tender Value	Rs. 4814.20 Lakhs
Bid Security	Rs. 25,57,100/-
Completion Period	24 Months
Date and time of tender closing	**20/02/2024**

Complete details and tender document will be available at **https://www.ireps.gov.in**

Chief Engineer/Construction, Ernakulam Jn

Follow us on : twitter.com/GMSRailways

यूनियन बैंक **Union Bank of India**

ASSET RECOVERY BRANCH,
 # 2/3, Raja Building, NR road, Bangalore-560002
E –mail: ubin0555991@unionbankofindia.bank

POSSESSION NOTICE [Rule - 8 (1)] (For immovable Property)

Whereas: The undersigned being the Authorized officer of **Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch,** ,under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest (Second) Act, 2002 (Act No. 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13(2) read with rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated **06.09.2016** issued by ARB-Bengaluru North calling upon the above mentioned **Borrowers/Mortgagors/Guarantors: 1) Pavanakumar Jettappa C S (Borrower),** No.80,2nd Floor, 1st Cross, 2nd Main, Vysa Bank Colony, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore, **2) Chandramouli(co-applicant)** No.65,4th Cross, 39th "A"Main, BTM 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560068, to repay the amount mentioned in the notice being **Rs. 21,99,745** (Rupees Twenty One lakhs Ninety Nine thousand Seven hundred and Forty Five only) and interest thereon within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The Borrowers having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to the Borrowers and the public in general that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him/her under Section 13(4) of the said Act read with rule 8 of the said rules on this **25th January, 2024.**

The borrower in particular and the public in general is hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of **Union Bank of India, Asset Recovery Branch,** for an amount **Rs. 40,30,098/-** (Rupees Forty Lakhs Thirty Thousand and Ninety Eight Only) as on **31.12.2023** and interest/Cost/ Expenses thereon.

The borrower's attention is invited to the provisions of Sub-section (8) of Section 13 of the Act, in respect of time available, to redeem the secured assets.

DESCRIPTION OF THE SECURED ASSETS:

All that piece and parcel of Residential Flat No.G-32, in Ground Floor, having super built-up area of 963Sqft with one hall, one kitchen, 2 bedrooms, 2 toilet cum Bathrooms and one car parking in the apartment known as Prabhavathi Spring Field", constructed on Schedule A property with RCC framed structure, concrete blocks, main door teak frame and steam breach veneered flush shutter and room with glass and safety grills, vitrified floorings etc. along with 212 square feet of undivided share right, title and interest in the Schedule-A property and a covered car parking space in the stilt floor and the flat is bounded on the: East by : Open space, West by : Corridor, North by : Flat G-31, South by: Flat No. G-33.

Date: 25.01.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India
Asset Recovery Branch, Bangalore

यूनियन बैंक **Union Bank of India**

Rajarajeshwarinagar Branch,
No.148, Guru Raghavendra Complex, BEML Layout, 3rd stage,
Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-560098, Phone:080-22958281,
Mail id: rajarajeswarinagar@unionbankofindia.com

Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Property

E-Auction Sale Notice for 15 days Sale of immovable Assets under the Securitization and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to rule 8 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rule, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the symbolic possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Union Bank of India** (secured Creditor) will be sold on **" As is where is", " As is what is " and " whatever there is"** on the date mentioned below, for recovery of dues as mentioned hereunder to **Union bank of India** from the below mentioned Borrower(s) and Guarantor(s). The Reserve Price and the Earnest Money Deposit are also mentioned hereunder:

Name and address of the Secured Creditor : Union Bank of India, Rajarajeshwarinagar Branch, No.148, Guru Raghavendra Complex, BEML, Layout, 3rd stage, Rajarajeshwarinagar, Bangalore-560098.

Name and address of the Borrower, Co-Applicant and Guarantor: (1) Mrs Sarasvathi Raghavendra Wife of Late Raghavendra G S No 64, Plot No 101, Flat No 101, 1st Floor, SLV Sarvara Apartment, Madhumitra Layout, Jigani Village(CT), Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore - 560105. **(2)Mrs Padmavathi (Mother of Raghavendra G S)** Address-No 26C, Kodi Hosur, Channagiri Road, Hosur Kannapur, Arakere, Bhadravati, Shivamogga, Karnataka

Amount due: Rs.22,80,884.42 (Rupees Twenty Two Lakhs Eighty Thousand Eight Hundred Eighty Four and Forty Two Paisa Only) with future interest + other legal expenses.

Description of immovable secured assets to be Sold : All that piece and parcel of the property consisting of

Schedule A Property: Property at Site No 63 & 64, Katha No 6375/660/63 and 6376/660/64 formed in (Sy no 285/2) in the layout known as "Madhumitr Phase 2" in the land bearing Sy No 285/1, 285/2,286,288/1,288/2,288/3,297,298/1, 298/2,299,306/3A and 306/3B in all measuring 7 acres 34 guntas situated at Jigani Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore-560105. Measuring East 80 feet West 80 feet and North 50 feet and South 54.6 feet in all 4172 sq feet and bounded on East by: Land in Sy no 285/3, West by: 40 feet road, North by:CA Land, South by: Site no 65.

Schedule B Property: Mortgage of Flat bearing No 101 in the 1st floor of the apartment building known as "SLV Sarovara" having a super built up area of 675 sq ft containing Double Bed Room together with one open car parking space. Including proportionate share in common areas such as Passages, Lift room Lobbies, Staircase, etc.constructed on Schedule-A Property, Together with 175Sq feet Undivided Share of the Land in Schedule A Property and bounded on East by: Open to Sky, West by: Flat No.105, North by: Open to Sky, South by: Corridor.

Date and time of Auction: 14.02.2024 from 11.00 A.M to 4.00 P.M. (with 10 min unlimited auto extensions) E-auction website-www.mstcecommerce.com.
Last date for submission of EMD : on or before the commencement of E-Auction.
Reserve price: Rs.18,64,000/-
Earnest Money to be Deposited: Rs.1,86,400/-

For Detailed terms and condition of the sale, please refer to the link provided in
(1) https://www.ibapi.in (2) www.unionbankofindia.co.in
The intending purchaser require to register through :
https://www.mstcecommerce.com/auctionhome/ibapi/index.jsp
The online E-auction will be held through website: **sarfaesi@unionbankofindia.com.**
For E-auction Related queries Please contact : 9569780778

Date : 27.01.2024
Place: Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Union Bank of India.

ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕ ಪ್ರಕಟಣೆ

ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು–560064, ಯಲಹಂಕ ಹೋಬಳಿ, ಅಟ್ಟೂರು ಅಂಚೆ, ಅಟ್ಟೂರು ಬಡಾವಣೆ, 1ನೇ ಎ ಮುಖ್ಯರಸ್ತೆ, 5ನೇ ಅಡ್ಡರಸ್ತೆ, ಮನೆ ನಂ.44 ರಲ್ಲಿ ವಾಸವಾಗಿರುವ ಹೆಚ್.ಎಸ್.ಸುಬ್ರಮಣಿಶೆಟ್ಟಿ ರವರ ಮಗನಾದ ನಾನು ಎ.ಎಸ್.ಶ್ರೀನಾಥ್ ಆದ ನಾನು ಈ ಮೂಲಕ ಸಾರ್ವಜನಿಕರಲ್ಲಿ ತಿಳಿಯಪಡಿಸುವುದೇನೆಂದರೆ, ಮುನಿವೆಂಕಟಪ್ಪ ನವರ ಮಗನಾದ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪ ರವರಿಗೆ ದಿನಾಂಕ:22–05–1980 ರಂದು ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಜಿಲ್ಲೆ, ಬೆಂಗಳೂರು ಉತ್ತರ ತಾಲ್ಲೂಕಿನ ಅಟ್ಟೂರು ಗ್ರಾಮದಲ್ಲಿನ 34ನೇ ಸರ್ವೆ ನಂಬರಿನಲ್ಲಿರುವ 25ನೇ ನಂಬರಿನ ನಿವೇಶನವನ್ನು ಮಂಜೂರು ಮಾಡಲಾಗಿದ್ದು, ನಾನು ದಿ. 24–06–2010 ರಂದು ಸದರಿ ಜಾಗವನ್ನು ಕ್ರಯ ಮಾಡಿಕೊಂಡಿರುತ್ತೇನೆ. ಆದ ನಂತರ ರಾಮಕೃಷ್ಣಪ್ಪ ರವರ ಕುಟುಂಬದವರು ನನ್ನ ಸಂಪರ್ಕಕ್ಕೆ ಬಾರದೆ ಇರುವ ಕಾರಣದಿಂದ ಇವರುಗಳು ಯಾರಿದ್ದರೂ ತಿಳಿದುಬಂದಲ್ಲಿ ಅಥವಾ ಸಿಕ್ಕಿದಲ್ಲಿ ದಯಮಾಡಿ ಮೇಲ್ಕಂಡ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಅಥವಾ ಈ ಕೆಳಗಿನ ವಕೀಲರ ವಿಳಾಸಕ್ಕೆ ಅಥವಾ ಮೊಬೈಲ್ ನಂಬರ್ ತಿಳಿಸಲು ಕೋರಿದೆ.

ಎ. **ಪ್ರಶಾಂತ್**, ವಕೀಲರು
ಕಛೇರಿ ವಿಳಾಸ: #3755, ಸಂಪ್ರತಿ ದೇವರ ಪೇಟೆ,
ದೊಡ್ಡಬಳ್ಳಾಪುರ ನಗರ–561203. ಮೊ:9916917735

PUBLIC NOTICE

Notice is given on behalf of our client **Mr. Rahul Goenka and Mrs. Annu Agarwal,** that the, **Last page of the Original Sale deed dated 02/03/2023**, executed by **Puravankara Limited., in favor of Mr. Rahul Goenka and Mrs. Annu Agarwal,** for Property bearing Plot No. PWF-056 and having E-Khatha No. 150200103200822539, measuring East to West: 12.19 meters, North to South: 9.14 meters, totally measuring 111.48 square meters, carved out of land parcel situated at Kachanayakanahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban, has been lost/misplaced by our client **Mr. Rahul Goenka and Mrs. Annu Agarwal,** for which the undersigned has registered an appropriate Lost Article complaint vide **e-Lost Report No. 0903497/2024, Date: On: 25/01/2024** with Karnataka State Police (Bangalore City unit).

If anyone finds these document, please return it to the undersigned party. All the persons are hereby informed not to deal or carry out any transaction with anyone on the basis of the above-mentioned missing documents without approval of our client. If anyone has already carried out any transaction or any transaction is in the process of being carried out using these missing documents, kindly inform the undersigned party in writing at the below mentioned address within 14 days from the day of this paper publication after which no claim shall be entertained by our clients.

Sd/- **Anupam Agarwal**
RAMNIWAS SURAJMAL (Advocates & Solicitors)
No. 511, 'A' Wing, Mittal Tower, M.G. Road,
Bangalore-560 001. Phone No.: 9740645762
Email: anupam@rslegal.in
Place: Bangalore Date: 28/01/2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

FOR PURCHASE OF PROPERTY

NOTICE is hereby given that **MRS ZOHRAIN KHALEELI** is willing to sell the schedule property in favour of **my Client Mr Rajeev Gupta and Gunjan Gupta,** free from all encumbrances. Any person having any right, title, interest, claim or demand of any nature whatsoever in respect of the said property, is hereby required to make the same known in writing along with the documentary proof thereof, to the below mentioned his Counsel Mr. RADESH.K, Office at Third Floor, Above Favara Car World, SMN Complex, Whitefield Main Road, Thubarahalli, Bangalore. within 07 days from the date of publication hereof, failing which the negotiations shall be completed, without any reference to such claims and the claims if any, shall be deemed to have been given up or waived.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Property bearing **Site No: 8,** Old Khata No: 42/2-3, New Mahadevapura CMC Khata No: 113/42/2, measuring East to West: 50 Feet 3 inches + 55 Feet/2 and North to South: 60 Feet, **totally measuring 3100 Square Feet** in the Layout formed in **Survey No: 42/2, Situated at Munnekolalla Village,** Varthur Hobli, Bangalore South Taluk and bounded on the:- East by : Private Property; West by : 30 Feet Road; North by : Property No: 9; and South by : Property No: 7.

Contact : **Mr. RADESH BE,** LL.B, LL.M
Director - MKM Legal Solutions Pvt Ltd.
e-mail id:
radesh@mkmlegalsolutions.com
Contact No: +91 96431 39636

PUBLIC NOTICE

My client SRI. SURESHAPPA. M. K, S/o. Kotrappa. K, Aged about 55 Years, R/at. B3-2033, Sobha Garrison, Tumkur Road, Nagasandra Post, Bangalore, has entered into sale agreement for purchase of the property mentioned in the schedule below with MR. **SRI DILIP KUMAR POKHARANA,** S/o. Bhawar Lal, Aged about 41 Years, R/at No.10, 8th Main, 5th Cross, Bhuvaneshwari Nagar, T. Dasarahalli, Bangalore. Now the public is hereby notified that if any persons/institutions have got any claims in respect of the schedule property are hereby requested to forward their claims with copies of the supporting documents to the under mentioned address within SEVEN days from today. If no claims are received within the said period my client will proceed and conclude the transaction as if there are no claims from any persons/institutions.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of House bearing No. 39, Katha No. 362 BBMP B-Katha No. 1005, ward No. 14- Bagalagunte of Bruhath Bangalore Mahanagara palike Bangalore carved out converted land bearing Sy.No. 41 of Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore. (Official Memorandum bearing No. BDS.ALN/SR(S) 40/2000-01, dated 17-03-2001 issued by the Special deputy Commissioner, Bangalore District, situated in layout known as **"RAMAIAH LAYUOT"**, Dasarahalli Village, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore, measuring East to West: 27 Feet and North to South: 40 feet, in all measuring 1080 Square Feet along with residential building measuring 10 Square of built up area consisting of Ground Floor constructed with RCC roof, with all civic amenities Bounded on East by : Private Property, West by : Site No. 40, North by : 30 Feet Road, South by : Site No. 62.

Manjunatha S C, Advocate.
No.123, 2nd Floor, 47th Cross, 20th Main,
3rd Block, Near Dhobighat Bus Stop and
Varior Bekary, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560010.
Mob No. 9448226484
Bangalore. Date:26-01-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that my clients **1.Sri. GAUTHAM.M** S/o V.Muniswamy and **2. Smt. Lavanya Gautham** W/o Gautham.M, Residing at No.595, 11th Cross, 5th Main, Sadashivanagar, Swimming Pool, Bangalore-560080, wish to purchase residential Site bearing No.336, having BBMP Katha PID No.262/261/336 Situated in the residential layout formed by 'The Indian Institute of Science Employees House Building C-operative Society Ltd., Bangalore-560012, at Kodigehalli Village Yelahanka Hobli Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560092, known as Bharathrathna J.R.D Tata Nagar, Coming under BBMP Ward No.8-Kodigehalli Range, measuring : East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 30 feet Total Area: 1200 Sq feet and building constructed their on: Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor totally measuring 3200 Sq feet, from its Owner **Sri.V.KANICKARAJ** S/o Sri. Vedamanickam, Residing at: "Arputham Nilayam", No.26, 7th Main, Anriya Dwellington Apartment Street, Behind New Railway Colony, Lottegollahalli, RMV 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560094.

If any body is having any right, title, claim, interest or objections over the same, may file their objections with documents within 10 days from this date, failing which my clients will proceed further and get the sale deed in their/nominees name.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of residential Site bearing No.336, having BBMP Katha PID No.262/261/336 measuring : East to West: 40 feet, North to South: 30 feet, Total Area: 1200 Sq feet Situated in the residential layout formed by 'The Indian Institute of Science Employees House Building Co-operative Society Ltd., Bangalore-560012, at Kodigehalli Village Yelahanka Hobli Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore-560092, known as Bharathrathna J.R.D Tata Nagar, Coming under BBMP Ward No.8-Kodigehalli Range and the building constructed their on: Ground Floor, First Floor, Second Floor and Third Floor totally measuring 3200 Sq feet

Boundaries:
East by : 30 feet wide Road,
West by : Site No.309 & 308,
North by : Site No.335,
South by : Site no: 337.

R.SURENDRANATH BENARJY, Advocate,
#14 & 15, 2nd Cross, Kodindaramareddy layout, Ramamurthy nagar, Bangalore-16.
Mobile – 9845784151.

PUBLIC NOTICE

My Clients are intending to purchase the Agriculture land in Sy No.91/13, Old Sy No.91/6, situated at Mugaluru Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District, described as the Schedule Property from **Dr.SAIRA BHANU,** aged about 59 years, wife of Mr. Humayun Kabeer and **Mr. HUMAYUN KABEER,** aged about 62 years, son of late. S.A.Kareem, both residing at No.266/5, 2nd Floor, M.G.Aga Residency, 9th Cross, Lakshmi Road, A.G.A.Garden, Shanthinagar, Bangalore-560 027.

The Public is hereby informed that if anybody have any objections for the above said Sale, they may file their objections along with the related documents to the under signed within **Ten (10) days** from the date of this publication. If no objections have been received within the above time, my Client will proceed to Purchase the Schedule Property as nobody have any objections.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of the Agriculture land in **Sy No.91/13, Old Sy No.91/6,** situated at **Mugaluru Village, Sarjapura Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District,** measuring 12 1/ 2 Guntas and karab 1/2 Gunta, in total 13 Guntas Bounded on the :

East by : Land in Sy No. 139 and 140 of Mugaluru Village
West by : Road.
North by : Remaining portion of land in Sy No.91/6 of Mugaluru Village.
South by : Land in Sy No. 146 and existing village Road.

MAKAM NAGARAJA GUPTA
MAKAM LAW ASSOCIATES
Advocates
No. 429-430, Second Floor
Alankar Pearl Plaza, K.G. Road
Bangalore-560 009

COURT NOTICE

In the court of Shri S.A. Morey Judge/Family Court No. 2, Nagpur (Urban), Nagpur (M.S) Summons to appear in person (0.5, R 3)
Petition No: A/45/2023
Aaliya Aamreen W/O. Syed Sageer, Through power of attorney, Mujahid S/O MO Idris Vs Syed Sageer S/O Syed Ibrahim
Next Date: 08/04/2024
To,
Mr.Syed Sageer S/O Syed Ibrahim
1. R/O Sunshine Apartment 03, Pent house 03, New Guruppanpalaya Main road Bengaluru Karnataka - 560029
2. R/O D/No 6/26 Fifth Main Bannerghatta Main Road Bismillah Nagar Bengaluru (Karnataka) - 560029.

Whereas **Aaliya Aamreen W/O Syed Sageer (Through power of attorney, Mujahid S/O MO Idris)** has instituted a suit against you, for which you are hereby summoned to appear in this court In person **on 08.04.2024 at 11.00 O' Clock** in the forenoon, to answer the claim; and you are directed to produce on that all the documents upon which you intend to rely on support of your defence.

Take notice that, in default of your appearance of the day before mentioned, the suit will be heard and determined in you absence.

Given under my hand and the seal of the court, this **25.08.2023**

S/d Registrar
Family court, Nagpur
Judge Family Court No 2, Nagpur (M.S)

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the general public that, my client intends to purchase the site property, which has been more fully described in the schedule hereunder from its owner C.Rajappa, S/o Chikkamuniyappa, Residing at, Shubha Enclave, Anekal-Chandapura Road, Byagadadenahalli, Kasaba Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District.

Above said owner represented that, he is absolute right, title, interest, possession in respect of the schedule property to the exclusion of any other persons. The above said owner represented that, schedule property is not subject matter of any claims, litigation, mortgage, charge, lease, Testamentary rights, Nature of legal rights, Agreement Holder, Power of Attorney Holder, in respect of the schedule property or any part thereof in any manner, what so ever in the event of existence of any claim, litigation, agreement, encumbrances etc., in respect of schedule property by any persons firm, institution or company. I do hereby call upon them to file a same with me in writing with documentary proof to substantiate the same within the 07 days from the date of publication of this notice. Failing which my client will presume the representation of the owner to be true and correct, proceed with transaction to complete the sale. Any claim made thereafter will not be entertained and it will be presumed that, there are no any claims or objections.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

Vacant site bearing No.215, Category L.I.G-II developed by the Karnataka Housing Board, measuring East to West: 09 Meters; North to South (14.50+15.50)/2 Meters, in all measuring 135.00 Square Meters, bounded on : **East by:** Site No.216 LIG-II, **West by:** Site No.214 LIG-II, **North by :** Road, **South by:** Site No.211 LIG-II.

Situated at, Iggaluru Banahalli Village, Anekal Taluk, Chandapura Municipal Limits, Bangalore Urban District.

N. CHANDRA REDDY, Advocate
Opp. Court Building, Old P.W.D Office Road,
Anekal - 562 106. Mobile: 8088888749.
Dt: 27-01-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

TO ALL PERSONS, let it be known that our client SRI SATISH T.J. S/o late Jaya Boregowda, Aged about 58 years, residing at: No.293, 18th Cross Railway Badavane, Vijayanagar 2nd Stage Mysuru – 570 017, the Principal, do hereby REVOKE IN ITS ENTIRETY that certain General Power of Attorney dated 30/11/1994 bearing document number 967/1994-95 registered in the office of the sub-registrar, Kengeri, thereby appointed Sri.T.R.Yogananda Son of Late Sri.T.C.Ramaswamy, as his Attorney-in-Fact in respect of the schedule property. This revocation of General Power of Attorney shall be conclusively for all purpose, from the date of execution as set forth below. Our client for good cause do hereby revoke, cancel and make void the General Power of Attorney therein given and contained, for all matters granted to such Attorney-in-fact. Nothing herein shall affect any actions taken by my client's Attorney-in-Fact prior to and after this notice for revocation of General Power of Attorney. Notice of this revocation of General Power of Attorney shall be binding on every person or entity to which a copy of this revocation of General Power of Attorney has been given. A copy of this revocation of General Power of Attorney shall be effective as an original of all purpose. This Revocation of General Power of Attorney may be served via personal delivery, mail, facsimile transmission or other electronic transmission, and shall be effective regardless in the manner in which same is received. The undersigned absolves from liability of any person who acts in accordance with this Revocation of Power of Attorney. This Revocation of General Power of Attorney is executed on this 25/01/2024 bearing document number JGN-4-00243/2023-24 in the office of the sub-registrar, Jigani, Bangalore.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing Sy. No. 29 of Arehalli village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, Bengaluru, measuring 1 acre 38 guntas and bounded on the:

East by : Nala and private property
West by : Property in Sy. No.26 and 27
North by : Property in Sy. No.25
South by : Private Property

H.K.GIRISH
ADVOCATE / MANAGING PARTNER
M & G Associates
73, 27th Cross, 11th Main,
BSK 2nd Stage, Bangalore – 79.
Ph - 080-26632343 / 88670-44666

LOST

I, Mr. KHALEEL AHAMED S/o. Abdul Jabbar, residing at No. 1393, Main Road, R.T. Nagar Post, Bangalore-560 032, I, declare that I lost my passport bearing No. A0030756. Date of Issue : 04.11.1996, Place of issue Bangalore during transit.

In this regard I have lodged the Police Complaint vide Lost Report No. 0904291/2024 dated 26/01/2024 with Bengaluru City. If anybody found please Call : 98440 83856.

PUBLIC NOTICE FOR LOST DOCUMENT

Notice is given to the general public that my client **LALTI KUMARI W/o SAHJA NAND PRASAD** aged about 73 years R/at Prince Saloon Durja Main Road Budda Colony Bihar 800001 are lost the documents relating to the schedule property is morefully described in the Shedule given below original sale deed dt: 31.12.2012 Reg No.MLS-1-02370/2012-13, CD No.MLSD52 in the Office of the Malleshwaram Sub- Registrar and Manual khatha the documents are lost while traveling in bike on 18.01.2024 at bettahslasuru panchayath to A2B Hotel police complaint is given regarding the missing documents on 18.01.2024.

SCHEDULE

All that piece and parcel of residential site bearing **No.86** formed at Green Field Garden-II Layout formed by the Vendor on the land bearing converted Sy. Nos. 49, 163(Old No.50/P2), 164(Old No.50/P6). 50/P11, 50/P26, 51/1P, 53/1P, 53/2, 53/3, 54/2P, 54/3, 55/P4, 56/1, 109, 110,115, 122, 129, 130, 131/1, 132P, 136, 139P, 162 (old Sy.No.55/P2), 165 (old No.50/P5), 173, of **Kudaragere village, Jala Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk** (the site is carved out of Sy. No.165) and bounded on :

East by : Road, West by: Site No.105, North by : Site No.85, South by : Site No.87
And measuring
East to West : 60 feet and North to South : 40 feet in all measuring **2400 Sq. feet.**

N. Muniraja, BA.LLB, Advocate
Office at: 1st Floor, Shanthinagar South,
Sulibele Road Behind Shanimahatma Swamy
Temple, Devanahalli Town-562110
Bangalore Rural District. M : 98807 93735

PUBLIC NOTICE

Our client **Smt. JEHAN ALI,** is the agreement holder of residential apartment bearing No. G-1701, NITESH CAESARS PALACE which is more fully described in the schedule hereunder. Our client **Smt. JEHAN ALI,** represented that, while taking Xerox have lost unregistered Original Sale Agreement / Construction Agreement dated:18-01-2013, pertaining to the schedule property.

Hence our client has lodged complaint on: 26-01-2024 intimating the loss of Original Sale Agreement/Construction Agreement. Any person finding the said original may please to hand over the same either to the undersigned or to the agreement holder, if any person claiming any rights, title or interest based on the said deed should write the undersigned within **15 days** of this public notice.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that Residential Apartment bearing No. G-1701 NITESH CAESARS PALACE in Seventeenth Floor of Block-G, situated at Raguvanahalli Village, Uttarahalli Hobli, Bengaluru South Taluk, measuring 1264.136 Sq.feet of built up area with a right being restricted to make use of the terrace space of 126.692 Sq.ft without any structures thereon and proportionate share in common area such passages, lobbies, lifts, staircases and other areas ofcommon use together with right to use one top covered car parking space.

YOGESHA .B. POOJARI, Advocate
No.92, B/w 7th & 8th Cross, 2nd Main Road,
Chamarajapete, Bengaluru- 560018.
Date: 27-01-2024

PUBLIC NOTICE

The notice is hereby given to public that our client Rakesh Kumar.M and Sathish Kumar M are intending to purchase and mortgage the schedule property and avail loan from Priamal Capital Housing Finance Limited.

If any person or persons or financial institution or Bank has any claim over the schedule property or any person or persons claim any right, title or interest, over the schedule property, the same may be lodged with the undersigned within seven days from today, along with relevant documents, failing which it will be presumed that the schedule property is free from any such claim and any claim received thereafter will not bind my client and would not be considered by my client.

SCHEDULE :

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Site No.23, Khatha No.54, Assessment No.81/2APL, Situated at Andhrahalli Village, Herohalli Grama Panchayath Limit, Yeshwanthpura Hobli, Banagalore North Taluk, Bangalore, now comes under BBMP Ward No.40, measuring East to West: 40 ft, North to South: 30 ft, in all measuring 1200 sqft, bounded on; East by Site No.20, West by Road, North by Site No.24, South by Site No.22,

V.L. Associates
Advocates
No.56, Out House, 19th Main Road, 2nd Block, Rajajinagar, Bangalore-560 010. Ph: 94819 00851/ 9743323668.
Place: Bangalore Date: 27.01.2024

KSEB KERALA STATE ELECTRICITY BOARD LIMITED - TENDER NOTICE

O/o the Deputy Chief Engineer, Civil Circle, Pallom, Kottayam
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB _647337_1
PAC: 20,00,00,000/- Last Date- 09.02.2024 05.00pm

O/o the Executive Engineer, Electrical Circle,Kannur
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB _645738_1
PAC: 9,75,42,990/- Last Date- 12.02.2024 06.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB _646203_1
PAC: 14,25,52,126/- Last Date- 12.02.2024 06.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB _646086_1
PAC: 13,97,53,162/- Last Date- 12.02.2024 06.00pm

O/o the Chief Engineer,(S.C.M),Vydyuthi Bhavanam,Thiruvananthapuram
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB _649756_1
PAC: 18,00,00,000/- Last Date- 12.02.2024 05.00pm
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB _649853_1
PAC: 39,00,00,000/- Last Date- 14.02.2024 03.00pm

O/o the Executive Engineer,General Division, Kozhikode
E-tender ID: 2024_KSEB _649326_1
PAC: 2,22,01,409/- Last Date- 26.02.2024 11.00am
Visit www.kseb.in Ref : PR/MC1/E460/E-tender/2024

KERALA WATER AUTHORITY e-Tender Notice

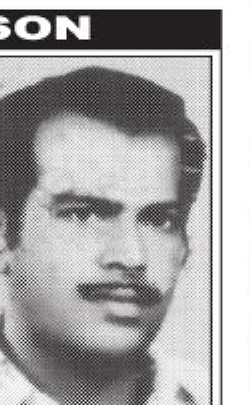
Tender No : 1) Re-E-Tender No 273/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN, 2) Re-E-Tender No 274/2023-24/SE/PHC/CHN

1)Jal Jeevan Mission-WSS to Aikkaranadu,Mazhuvannoor & Kunnathunadu Pts-Construction of 9m dia well cum pump house-General Civil Work. 2)AMRUT-2.0 - Laying Distribution mains from the OHSR at Kaloor-General Civil Work-1- From OHSR to Kaloor Junction and Palarivattom. EMD : Rs. 2,00,000/-, 5,00,000/-, Tender fee : Rs. 13010, 19518, Last Date for submitting Tender : 12-02-2024 03:00:pm, Phone : 0484-2360645.

Website : www.kwa.kerala.gov.in, www.etenders.kerala.gov.in

KWA-JB-GL-6-2193-2023-24 Superintending Engineer, PH Circle, Kochi

MISSING PERSON



Mr. Sundara Raja Reddiar, he has been missing from his house in Thamarakkulam cheri in Kollam east Village AVR nagar house No: 18, since April 1992. The investigation going on at Kollam East police station Cr: 1889/2023 U/S 57(A) Of KP Act

51 year old at the time of disappearance, about 6 feet height, can speak malayalam, tamil and hindi.

If any information obtained regarding the above person, please inform to the below mentioned phone numbers.

ACP KOLLAM CITY : 9497990025
KOLLAM EAST PS : 0474-2742072
SHO KOLLAM EAST PS : 9497987030
SI KOLLAM EAST PS : 9497980175

29/F2/2024/I&PRD

बैंक ऑफ़ बड़ौदा Bank of Baroda

KALYAN NAGAR BRANCH
No.1M, HRBR III Block, 1st Main, Kalyan Nagar-560043.

GOLD JEWEL PUBLIC AUCTION NOTICE

The under mentioned persons are hereby informed that they have failed to pay off the liability in the loan accounts. They are therefore requested to pay off the liability and other charges and redeem the pledged securities on or before **12.02.2024** (date) failing which the said securities will be sold by the Bank in public auction/private treaty at the cost of the borrowers at the Bank's premises at **3.00 P.M.** on **13.02.2024** or on any other convenient date thereafter without further notice at the absolute discretion of the bank.

Sl. No	Date of Loan	Loan Number	Sanctioned Amount	Total Gram	Name and Address of the Borrower
1	20.09.2022	42930600002087	4,66,000/-	162.2 gm	Mr. Kishore Kumar sha
2	05.05.2023	42930600002438	41,800/-	12.7 gm	Kavyashree C

Date : 27.01.2024
Place : Bengaluru

Sd/- Authorised Officer,
Bank of Baroda

MAHAGENCO E-TENDER NOTICE

Maharashtra State Power Generation Co. Ltd.

Chandrapur Super Thermal Power Station MAHAGENCO, invites Proposals from reputed and experienced Companies to Participate in the Competitive bidding Process to following Tenders.

S.N.	Tender No (RFx No)/Descricption/Estimated Cost in Rs.
1	3000045155 / Work of Renovation and Upgradation of Receipt and Dispatch Yard of Railway Siding of CSTPS by Provision of Various standard Infrastructure facilities at R&D yard in Coal Handling Plant at CSTPS, Chandrapur / Rs. 65945892.65

Above floated tender published in MAHAGENCO online Portal. For the detailed Tender document, interested bidders should visit SRM Website **https://eprocurement.mahagenco.in** for (Sr. No. 01)
For any query Contact No.8554991818.

Sd/-
Chief Engineer (O&M)
CSTPS, Chandrapur

GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA
ZILLA PANCHAYATH: CHAMARAJANAGARA
OFFICE OF THE EXECUTIVE ENGINEER,PANCHAYATH RAJ ENGINEERING DIVISION, CHAMARAJANAGAR -571313

Telephone no : 08226-223019 E-mail: eepredcrnagar@rediffmail.com

No.EE/PRED/CHN/IE/TENDER NOTIFICATION No.12/2023-24 Dated:25.01.2024

Item rate tenders are invited through KPPP Portal On behalf of Governor of Karnataka from eligible Registered Contractors in standard bid document KW-3 form the total number of tenders 01, Maximum estemated cost is Rs. 100.00 lakhs under Vetarnary department Head of Grants Accounts.

Tender upload date: 29-01-2024

Last date for submission of tender: 06-02-2024 up to 17.00 Hours

Date and Time of opening of technical bid: 07-02-2024 at after 11.00 Hours

Financial bid will open ofter approval of technical bid

More information can be had from the website. www.kppp.Karnataka.gov.in & any other details required can be obtained from office of the under signed during office hours.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer,
PRE Division,
Chamarajanagar

DIPR:CHANAGAR:358:2023-24

SWABHIMANI SOUHARDHA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Regd. Office: No. 125, 1st Floor, Kavi Lakshmeesha Road, (Diagonal Road), Beside Canara Bank, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-04. ☎: 4131 4393
Mobile: 9483514393 / 9483004088 email: info@swabhimanisouharda.com

Security Interest (Enforcement) Act 2002,
APPENDIX-IV, Rule-8(1)

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Swabhimani Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd., under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated:12-10-2023 calling upon the Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/ Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.1,19,38,815.00** (Rs.75,00,000/- towards principal and Rs.44,38,815.00 towards interest and other charges as on 19.10.2023 and further interest and cost, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors-having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to them and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this **22nd day of January 2024.**

The Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Swabhimani Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd., for an amount of **Rs.1,23,32,526.00** (Rs.75,00,000/- towards principal and Rs.48,32,526.00 towards interest and other charges) as on **22.01.2024** and further costs and interest thereon.

The Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-obligant / Guarantor	Amount Payable	Description of the Immovable Property
SMT.SUBHADRA W/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 65 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SRI.CHETHAN KUMAR.A** S/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 35 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SRI.CHANDRASHEKAR.A,** S/o Late. Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 44 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SMT.SOWMYA** D/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 36 years, R/at No.239/1, 6th Cross, 12th Main Road, HSR Layout, 5th Sector, Bengaluru-560102. **SRI. CHANDRAPPA** S/o Gopalappa, aged 50 years, R/at No.34, Gokula, 3rd cross, Hosapalya, Bommanahalli, Bengaluru-560068	Rs. 1,23,32,526.00 (Rs. 75,00,000/- towards principal and Rs. 48,32,526.00 towards interest and other charges) as on 22.01.2024 and further costs and interest thereon.	**(Details of the Asset offered as security to the Credit facilities)** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing residential Flat bearing No. 412, Third floor, A-Block, Majestic Residency with one car parking in basement, measuring 1,385 Sq.Ft of built up area, New Municipal No.26/61 with proportionate undivided share, rights, title and interest Land in the total extent in which the Flat is constructed i.e., the land bearing Sy.No.106/2, measuring 24 Guntas in Sy.No.107/2 and 2 Acres 03 Guntas in Sy.No.1/7 all about 3 Acres 11 Guntas out of which land measuring about 1,42,000 Sq. Ft., situated in Tavarekere within BBMP limits and Corporation Division No.35, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore, at present within the limits of BBMP Ward No.171 and the apartment is bounded on: East by : Public Property, West by : Private Property, North by : Road and South by : Private Property. The building with all amenities is of RCC with granite flooring, good quality doors and windows.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22-01-2024

Sd/-
C THIRUPALA REDDY,
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Under SARFAESI Act 2002

SWABHIMANI SOUHARDHA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Regd. Office: No. 125, 1st Floor, Kavi Lakshmeesha Road, (Diagonal Road), Beside Canara Bank, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-04. ☎: 4131 4393
Mobile: 9483514393 / 9483004088 email: info@swabhimanisouharda.com

Security Interest (Enforcement) Act 2002,
APPENDIX-IV, Rule-8(1)

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Swabhimani Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd., under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated:12-10-2023 calling upon the Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.1,07,95,940.00** (Rs.75,00,000/- towards principal and Rs.32,95,940.00 towards interest and other charges as on 12.10.2023) and further interest and cost, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors-having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to them and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this **22nd day of January 2024.**

The Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Swabhimani Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd., for an amount of **Rs.1,12,74,726.00** (Rs.75,00,000/- towards principal and Rs.37,74,726.00 towards interest and other charges) as on 22.01.2024 and further costs and interest thereon.

The Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-obligant / Guarantor	Amount Payable	Description of the Immovable Property
NAVEEN KUMAR M. S/o Munivenkatappa M. aged 38 years, R/at No.79, Aurora Villa, GR SUN VILLAS, Budigere Main Road, Huskur Main Road, Bengaluru--560049. **SMT.UMA DEVI** W/o Munivenkatappa M., aged 61 years R/at Apartment No.204, C-Block, 1st Floor, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **VIJAY ADITHYA KUMAR. M.** S/o Munivenkatappa M. aged 40 years, R/at No.76, Aurora Villa, GR SUN VILLAS, Budigere Main Road, Huskur Main Road, Bengaluru--560049 **SURESH RAJU.S** S/o Late P.Srinivas, aged 57 years, R/at No.15/3, AP Lane Pailwan T Annayappa Main Road, Thigalarapete, Bengaluru-560002.	Rs. 1,12,74,726.00 (Rs.75,00,000/- towards principal and Rs. 37,74,726.00 towards interest and other charges) as on 22.01.2024 and further costs and interest thereon.	**(Details of the Asset offered as security to the Credit facilities)** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Apartment No.204, C-Block, 1st Floor, BBMP PID No.64-156-26/136, in Majestic Residency, measuring 1,785 Sq. Ft. super built up area with two top covered car parking spaces in the basement viz. parking Slot No.72 and 73 with rights, title and interest an undivided share of 978 Sq. Ft. Land in the total extent in which the Flat is constructed i.e.,the land bearing Sy.No.106/2, measuring 24 Guntas in Sy.No.107/2 and 2 Acres 03 Guntas in Sy.No.1/7 all about 3 Acres 11 Guntas out of which land measuring about 1,42,000 Sq. Ft., situated in Tavarekere within BBMP limits and Corporation Division No.35, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore, at present within the limits of BBMP Ward No.171, and the apartment is bounded on: East by : Lift West by : Flat No.201, C-Block North by : Swimming Pool South by : Open space The building with all amenities is of RCC with granite flooring, good quality doors and windows.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22-01-2024

Sd/-
C THIRUPALA REDDY,
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Under SARFAESI Act 2002

SWABHIMANI SOUHARDHA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Regd. Office: No. 125, 1st Floor, Kavi Lakshmeesha Road, (Diagonal Road), Beside Canara Bank, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-04. ☎: 4131 4393
Mobile: 9483514393 / 9483004088 email: info@swabhimanisouharda.com

Security Interest (Enforcement) Act 2002,
APPENDIX-IV, Rule-8(1)

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, the undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Swabhimani Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd., under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated:12-10-2023 calling upon the Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/ Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.1,08,65,538.00** (Rs.70,00,000/- towards principal and Rs.38,65,538.00 towards interest and other charges) as on 19.10.2023 and further interest and cost, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors-having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to them and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this **22nd day of January 2024.**

The Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Swabhimani Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd., for an amount of **Rs.1,12,29,008.00** (Rs.70,00,000/- towards principal and Rs.42,29,008.00 towards interest and other charges) as on **22.01.2024** and further costs and interest thereon.

The Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-obligant / Guarantor	Amount Payable	Description of the Immovable Property
SRI.CHETHAN KUMAR.A S/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 35 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SMT.SUBHADRA** W/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 65 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SRI.CHANDRASHEKAR.A,** S/o Late. Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 44 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SMT.SOWMYA** D/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 36 years, R/at No.239/1, 6th Cross, 12th Main Road, HSR Layout, 5th Sector, Bengaluru-560102. **SMT.VEENA.S** W/o Chethan Kumar.A, aged 37 years, R/at Flat No.212,"A "Block, 1st Floor Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SMT.VANITHA** W/o Chandra shekar.A, aged 38 years R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029	Rs. 1,12,29,008.00 (Rs.70,00,000/- towards principal and Rs. 42,29,008.00 towards interest and other charges) as on **22.01.2024** and further costs and interest thereon.	**(Details of the Asset offered as security to the Credit facilities)** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing residential Apartment No.212, BBMP PID No.64-156-26/29, new No.26/29, 1st Floor, A-Block, Majestic Residency, measuring 1,655 Sq. Ft. of built up area with one car parking in basement floor with proportionate undivided share, rights, title and interest Land in the total extent in which the Flat is constructed i.e., the land bearing Sy.No.106/2, measuring 24 Guntas in Sy.No.107/2 and 2 Acres 03 Guntas in Sy.No.1/7 all about 3 Acres 11 Guntas out of which land measuring about 1,42,000 Sq. Ft., situated in Tavarekere within BBMP limits and Corporation Division No.35, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore, at present within the limits of BBMP Ward No.171, and the apartment is bounded on: East by : Public Property, West by : Private Property, North by : Road and South by : Private Property. The building with all amenities is of RCC with granite flooring, good quality doors and windows.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22-01-2024

Sd/-
C THIRUPALA REDDY,
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Under SARFAESI Act 2002

SWABHIMANI SOUHARDHA CREDIT CO-OPERATIVE LTD.

Regd. Office: No. 125, 1st Floor, Kavi Lakshmeesha Road, (Diagonal Road), Beside Canara Bank, V.V. Puram, Bangalore-04. ☎: 4131 4393
Mobile: 9483514393 / 9483004088 email: info@swabhimanisouharda.com

Security Interest (Enforcement) Act 2002,
APPENDIX-IV, Rule-8(1)

POSSESSION NOTICE (For Immovable Property)

Whereas, The undersigned being the Authorised Officer of the Swabhimani Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd., under Securitisation And Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 (Act 54 of 2002) and in exercise of powers conferred under Section 13 (12) read with Rule 3 of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules 2002, issued a Demand Notice dated:12-10-2023 calling upon the Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/ Guarantors to repay the amount mentioned in the notice, being **Rs.93,65,862.00** (Rs.50,00,000/- towards principal and Rs.43,65,862.00 towards interest and other charges as on 19.10.2023 and further interest and cost, within 60 days from the date of receipt of the said notice.

The borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors-having failed to repay the amount, notice is hereby given to them and the public in general, that the undersigned has taken possession of the property described herein below in exercise of powers conferred on him / her under section 13 (4) of the said Act, read with Rule 8 & 9 of the said Rules on this **22nd day of January 2024.**

The Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors in particular and the public in general are hereby cautioned not to deal with the property and any dealings with the property will be subject to the charge of the Swabhimani Souharda Credit Co-operative Ltd., for an amount of **Rs.96,74,862.00** (Rs.50,00,000/- towards principal and Rs.46,74,862.00 towards interest and other charges) as on **22.01.2024** and further costs and interest thereon.

The Borrowers and their Co-Obligants/Guarantors attention is invited to the provisions of sub-section (8) of section 13 of the Act, in respect of the time available, to redeem the secured assets.

Name & Address of Borrower/ Co-obligant / Guarantor	Amount Payable	Description of the Immovable Property
SRI.CHANDRASHEKAR.A, S/o Late. Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 44 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SMT.SUBHADRA** W/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 65 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SRI.CHETHAN KUMAR.A** S/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 35 years, R/at No.26, Majestic Residency, Tavarekere Main Road, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029. **SMT.SOWMYA** D/o Late Ashwathanarayana.K, aged 36 years, R/at No.239/1, 6th Cross, 12th Main Road, HSR Layout, 5th Sector, Bengaluru-560102. **SRI.JYOTHI MAHIMYANATHAN** S/o Mahimyanathan, aged 42 years, R/at No.1, 3rd Main Road, Chikka Adugodi, Tavarekere, Bengaluru-560029.	Rs. 96,74,862.00 (Rs.50,00,000/- towards principal and Rs. 46,74,862.00 towards interest and other charges) as on **22.01.2024** and further costs and interest thereon.	**(Details of the Asset offered as security to the Credit facilities)** All that piece and parcel of the property bearing residential 1) Apartment bearing No. SF-A310, Second floor, A-Block, Majestic Residency, measuring 1,125 Sq Ft of built up area with one car parking in basement at New municipal No.26/43, 2) Apartment bearing No.TF-414, 3rd Floor, A-Block, Majestic Residency, measuring 1,410 Sq. Ft. of built up area with one car parking in basement at New Municipal No. 26/63 with proportionate undivided share, rights, title and interest Land in the total extent in which the Flat is constructed i.e., the land bearing Sy.No.106/2, measuring 24 Guntas in Sy.No.107/2 and 2 Acres 03 Guntas in Sy.No.1/7 all about 3 Acres 11 Guntas out of which land measuring about 1,42,000 Sq. Ft., situated in Tavarekere within BBMP limits and Corporation Division No.35, Tavarekere Main Road, Bangalore, at present within the limits of BBMP Ward No.171& the apartment is bounded on East by : Public Property, West by : Private Property, North by : Road and South by : Private Property. The building with all amenities is of RCC with granite flooring, good quality doors and windows.

Place: Bangalore
Date: 22-01-2024

Sd/-
C THIRUPALA REDDY,
AUTHORIZED OFFICER
Under SARFAESI Act 2002

QuoteExpress WITHOUT HARD WORK, NOTHING GROWS BUT WEEDS › GORDON B HINCKLEY

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

REGIONAL OFFICE SOUTH
Basavanagudi, Bangalore - 560 04.
DVG ROAD II, BASAVANAGUDI BRANCH

(Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable Properties)

SALE NOTICE
E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable/ Movable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with proviso to Rule 8(6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002

Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and/or Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/Physical possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **DVG Road II Basavanagudi Branch of Canara Bank.,** will be sold on the basis of "As is where is", "As is what is", and "Whatever there is" on **28.02.2024, 11-00 a.m. to 12.00 p.m.** for recovery of **Rs. 1,30,55,000** (Rupees One Crore Thirty Lakhs Fifty Five Thousand only) on due to DVG Road II Basavanagudi Branch of Canara Bank borrower **1) G. P. PRAKASH AND MAMATHA .D .P**

The Reserve price, Earnest Money Deposits, Auction date, last date of submission of Bid details are as under. The intending bidders shall deposit Earnest Money deposit (EMD) by way of DD favouring Authorised Officer Canara Bank DVG Road II Basavanagudi Branch, Bangalore or through online **(RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer-IFSC Code CNRB0010441)** to the credit of the **account number 209272946,** Canara Bank, DVG Road II Basavanagudi Branch, on or before **27.02.2024 by 4.00 pm.** Date & Time of the E-Auction **28.02.2024 from 11.00 A.M. to 12.30 A.M.**

E-Auction Date : 28.02.2024

Descripiton of the immovable Assest	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Bid Incremental Value
Residential property Flat No. 202, Second Floor, Aries Lake View, CMC Katha No 460, Jakkur Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore 560064. **Boundaries : North :** Road, **South :** Road, **East :** Land Acquired By BDA, **West :** Land of a Ramakka W/o. Subbaiah.	**Rs. 73,00,000**	**Rs. 7,30,000**	**Rs. 50,000/-**

known encumbrances, if any: Not to the knowledge of the Bank.

For detailed Terms and Conditions of the sale please contact **Authorized Officer, Canara Bank, DVG Road II Basavanagudi Branch, Ph : 9449860047** during office hours on any working day or service provider **M/s. Antares systems Limited,** having its registered address at No. 24, 3rd Stage, 4th Block, Basaveshwarnagar, Bangalore-560079, **Mr. MANOHAR, Phone : 080-40482100/40482000, Mob : 91-9686196756.**

Date: 25.01.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/- Authorised Officer
Canara Bank

केनरा बैंक Canara Bank
(A Government of India Undertaking)

CHANDAPURA CIRCLE BRANCH (1065)
Chandapura Circle, Jaganamma Reddy Building, Bengaluru.
Mobile : 9483501065
E-mail : cb1065@canarabank.com

SALE NOTICE

E-Auction Sale Notice for Sale of Immovable / movable Properties under the Securitisation and Reconstruction of Financial Assets and Enforcement of Security Interest Act, 2002 read with provison to Rule 8 (6) of the Security Interest (Enforcement) Rules, 2002.

1) Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/Physical (Strike whichever is not applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank, Chandapura Branch,** Bengaluru. will be sold "As is where", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **29.02.2024, 10.30 AM to 11.30 PM** for recovery of **Rs. 2,56,05,222.62/-** (Rupees Two Crore Fifty Six Lakh Five Thousand Two Hundred Twenty Two And Sixty Two Paisa Only) as on 24.01.2024 with further Interest and Charged Thereon due to the Canara Bank Chandapura Circle from **Borrower : M/s. Sree Ganesh Builders & Developers,** No. 132/3, CSV Complex, Hosur Main Road, Chandapur, Anekal Tq., Bengaluru-56 081. **1) Sri Sangana Yerra Reddy** S/o. Sangana Rami Reddy, **2) Smt. Santhakumari .S** W/o. Sri Sangana Yerra Reddy, **Both are residing at :** A 309, Aspenwoods, Doddakammanahalli Main road, Bengaluru South off Bannerghatta Road 7098, Karnataka-560076.

The Reserve price, Earnest Money Deposits, Auction date, last date of submission of Bid details are as under. The intending bidders shall deposit Earnest Money deposit (EMD) by way of DD favouring Authorised Officer Canara Bank Chandrapura Circle Branch, Bangalore or through online **(RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer-IFSC Code CNRB0001065)** to the credit of the **account number 209272434,** Canara Bank, Chandrapura Circle Branch, on or before **28.02.2024 by 4.00 pm.** Date & Time of the E-Auction **29.02.2024 from 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M.**

E-Auction Date : 29.02.2024

Descripiton of the immovable Assest	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Bid Incremental Value
All that piece and parcel of Converted Residential 6 sites bearing No. 55,56,57,59,64 & 94, carved out of 2 Acres 28 Guntas in Sy. No. 82/1 and 32 Guntas in Sy. No. 82/2 and totally measuring to an extent of 3 Acres and 20 Guntas, Lakshmisagar Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore District, duly converted from Agricultural purposes to Non-Agricultural Residential purpose by Special Deputy Commissioner Vide Official Memorandum No. ALN (A)(A) SR:278/2011-12,277/2011-12, both dated : 02.04.2012 which is a part of 6 Acres 2 1/2 Guntas (including converted land measuring 16.5 Guntas in Sy. No. 100 and 2 Acres 6 Guntas in Sy. No. 75/1) Layout approved by the BMRDA/APA vide bearing No. APA/LAO/09/2012-13 dated 01.04.2013, and the Layout called and known as @Lake View Golden Nest Phase-II. **Boundaries of the Property (No. 55) : North :** Site No. 56, 2nd Phase, **South :** Road, **East :** Site No. 59, 1st Phase, **West :** Road. **Boundaries of the Property (No. 56) : North :** Road, **South :** Site No. 55, 2nd Phase, **East :** Site No. 60, 1st Phase, **West :** Road. **Boundaries of the Property (No. 57) : North :** Site No. 58 & 59, 2nd Phase, **South :** Road, **East :** Site No. 69, 1st Phase, **West :** Road. **Boundaries of the Property (No. 59) : North :** Road, **South :** Site No 57, 2nd Phase, **East :** Private Property 1st Phase, **West :** Site No. 58. **Boundaries of the Property (No. 64) : North :** Road, **South :** Site No. 63, 2nd Phase, **East :** Pathway, **West :** Road. **Boundaries of the Property (No. 94) : North :** Site No. 93, 2nd Phase, **South :** Road, **East :** Road, **West :** Pathway. Title Holder : Mrs. Sangana Santha Kumari.	Rs. 3,12,90,000	Rs. 31,29,000	Rs. 50,000/-

2) Notice is hereby given to the public in general and in particular to the Borrower (s) and Guarantor (s) that the below described immovable / movable property mortgaged/charged to the Secured Creditor, the Constructive/Physical possession (Strike whichever is not applicable) possession of which has been taken by the Authorised Officer of **Canara Bank, Chandapura Branch,** Bengaluru. will be sold "As is where", "As is what is" and "Whatever there is" on **29.02.2024, 10.30 AM to 11.30 PM** for recovery of **Rs. 3,53,66,995.61/-** (Rupees Three Crore Fifty Three Lakh Sixty Six Thousand Nine Hundred Ninety Five And Sixty One Paisa Only) as on 24.01.2024 with further Interest and Charged Thereon due to the Canara Bank Chandapura Circle from **Borrower : M/s. B.R. Electronics and Home Appliances,** Anekal Road, Iggalur, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560081. **Name of the Gaurantor : Sri M. Balaraju** S/o. Muniyallamma, No. E, 29 0 21, Near Govt. School, Iggalur Village, Chandapur Post, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560081. **2) Mr. M. Lakshmaiah** S/o. Munishamappa **(Gaurantor),** Iggalur Village, Chandapur Post, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560081.

The Reserve price, Earnest Money Deposits, Auction date, last date of submission of Bid details are as under. The intending bidders shall deposit Earnest Money deposit (EMD) by way of DD favouring Authorised Officer Canara Bank Chandrapura Circle Branch, Bangalore or through online **(RTGS/NEFT/Fund Transfer-IFSC Code CNRB0001065)** to the credit of the **account number 209272434,** Canara Bank, Chandrapura Circle Branch, on or before **28.02.2024 by 4.00 pm.** Date & Time of the E-Auction **29.02.2024 from 10.30 A.M. to 11.30 A.M.**

Descripiton of the immovable Assest	Reserve Price	EMD Amount	Bid Incremental Value
All that piece and parcel of land and building existing in land bearing Sy. No. 84, Sl. No. 243, O/s. Assesment No. 146, New Assement No. 157, Junjar No. 243, Old Pty. No. 146 and New Pty No. 157, situated at Iggalur Village of Chandapura, Anekal Road, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Urban District and bounded on : **East :** Private Property and Road, **West :** Chikkathayamma, **North :** Property of Muniyappa, **South :** Property of Laxmaiah. Title Holder : Sri M. Balaraju	Rs. 2,86,70,000	Rs. 28,67,000	Rs. 50,000/-

For detailed terms and conditions of the sale please refer the link "E-Auction" provided in Canara Bank's website (www.canarabank.com) or may contact Chief Manager **Chandapura Circle Branch of Canara Bank, Ph. No. 948350165 or may contact the service provider M/s. CANBANK COMPUTER SERVICS LTD (Contact 9832952602, e- mail: ccsleauction@gmail.com,** during office hours on any working day.

Date: 25.01.2024
Place: Bangalore

Sd/-
Authorised Officer

"Hinduism is not a sect, but a fellowship of all who accept the law of right and earnestly seek the truth

Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan

SOLAR AMBITION CALLS FOR URBAN ROOFTOP REVOLUTION

THE THIRD EYE

SHANKKAR AIYAR
Author of *The Gated Republic*, *Aadhaar: A Biometric History of India's 12 Digit Revolution*, and *Accidental India*
(shankkar.aiyar@gmail.com)

EVERY data point is screaming for it. India imports over 86 percent of its crude oil requirement. Coal accounts for nearly half of India's generation capacity and India must produce more coal to fire coal-powered plants to keep its economy chugging. Air pollution is claiming lives and residents in cities are gasping for breath. India is expected to account for 25 percent of global energy demand over the next two decades. The case for a solar revolution is manifest in the data.

Most of India is blessed with 300 days of sunshine. On the face of it, the country has ramped up solar power generation to over 70 GW, is ranked fourth globally, is home to some of the largest solar parks in the world, and has a target of generating 280 GW by 2030. Beyond the marquee milestones, the gap between potential and performance is wide. At 70 GW, India has harnessed only a tenth of the 748 GW potential assessed by the National Institute of Solar Energy.

Transitions call for mass persuasion. The solar power narrative is riveted around megawatt ambitions while the potential of rooftop solar—the KWHr revolution—is left lagging. The Council on Energy, Environment and Water estimates that India has an opportunity to generate around 637 GW from rooftop solar. A 2015 KPMG report places residential rooftop resource potential at 1,240 GW. There are estimates and then there is the saga of missed targets.

In 2015, the government set a target of 40 GW by 2022 for rooftop solar. At the end of 2023, rooftop solar accounted for just over 11 GW. The geography of the rollout—the traction is limited to four states—illustrates the sloth in the system at the state level. The pandemic did disrupt the rollout, but that alone is not the cause of what the Parliamentary Standing Committee in 2023 described as a "tardy pace of progress".

Serendipitously, attention is back on rooftop solar. This week, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced the Pradhan Mantri Suryodaya Yojana (PMSY), promising installation of rooftop solar systems on 10 million homes. The announcement of PMSY will hopefully propel capacity in photovoltaic cells and a reduction in costs. More importantly, it is an opportunity to review policy design to expand it beyond the 10 million households.

The scale of the opportunity is striking. India's population is around 1.4 billion—effectively, at 5 persons per family, that is 280 million households. CEA data shows India's households consume around 3,30,809 GWh of electricity. At a granular level, the average per capita consumption is 1,255 kWh; the more urban the habitat, the higher the consumption. Given the pace of urbanisation, usage of devices, e-mobility and digitalisation, consumption and demand will only spiral higher.

Urban India accounts for over a third of the population and is home to 53 cities with million-plus people and 4,000 towns. Any blueprint for energy resilience calls for mandating rooftop solar for existing and new buildings. Countries in Europe have mandated a renewable energy component for new and existing buildings by 2028. Using the Real Estate (Regulation and Development) Act and municipal laws, the government can mandate rooftop solar for new residential and commercial complexes.

The expansion of rooftop solar, though, depends on redesign of policy. There is no mistaking the pull factor of cost-efficient, consistent and cleaner energy—to lower costs, reduce disruptions and rid polluting generators. However, the push for transformation is haunted by issues of supply chain, quality, regulatory muddle, built-in inequities in tariff and fuzzy policy.

The average cost of a 3-kw rooftop system including installation hovers at around ₹3 lakh and qualifies for a subsidy of 40 percent. Housing societies seeking higher capacity pay more and get lower subsidies. The net-metering formula reflects a pro-discom bias—incredibly, in a hearing before the Maharashtra Electricity Regulatory Commission, the state's electricity distribution company argued that rooftop solar "are installed by the consumers for their self-use and therefore export of surplus units may not be encouraged". What is worse is that the interest rate on loans for rooftop solar is over 10 percent.

In sharp contrast, residents in the European Union can avail of subsidies of 900 euros per kw, zero-interest loan of up to 25,000 euros spread over 10 years. The Inflation Reduction Act in the US similarly offers homes and businesses rebates, tax credits and low-cost finance. Process is critical for progress. Government templates present the process as a series of easy steps, but fail to define deadlines. Those opting for rooftop solar find that while physical deployment takes less than 10 days, the approval process—beset with all the ills of inspector raj from delays to corruption—can take as long as three months.

The key to success lies in fostering an ecosystem to enable a hybrid paradigm. The induction of Aadhaar brought down costs of equipment such as scanners and QR code readers, and its adoption was accelerated by public-private partnerships. The use of LED bulbs was similarly propelled with subsidies and rules. The expansion of digital payments on national payment platforms such as UPI was catalysed by solutions built on the open platform by entrepreneurs.

Ensuring India's energy security requires an expedited integration of renewable energy sources. This calls for a realignment of incentives and a recasting of mindset and landscape.

NEW REPUBLIC OF INCLUSIVE MAJORITARIANISM

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE

MAKARAND R PARANJAPE
Professor of English, Jawaharlal Nehru University
Follow him on X @MakrandParanspe

I was witness and participant in the *pran pratishtha* or consecration of the new Ram mandir in Ayodhya on January 22. Besides its spiritual and religious significance, the rededication of the nativity shrine of Lord Ram marks a turning point not only in the history of our republic, but also in our civilisation. Prime Minister Narendra Modi—who was the principal, but not the only, *yajman* or performer of the ritual—himself said so in his speech after the sanctification of the temple. He called the return of Lord Ram to Ayodhya a transformative moment in the wheel of time: "January 22 is not just a date in the calendar. It marks beginning of a new era."

Does this mean that India is now a Hindu, rather than secular, country—a state with a stated religion? Frankly, this question did not strike me during the function on January 22. The occasion was too significant and solemn for such mistrust. Not an eye was dry as the *murti* or representation of Shri Ram was re-infused with the life-breath of millions of devotees and admirers all across India and many parts of the world.

Who could doubt that Ram was beyond the politics of faith, or the faith that is politics? The wheel of time turned when Mir Baqi, by an overwhelming consensus, is reported to have destroyed the temple. Now, the wheel of time has turned again with its restoration. Ram has not changed, nor is he affected by any of these changes. He remains unperturbed and peaceful, residing in the hearts of his followers as the *antaratma* or inner being. His name, or Ram *naam*, is more potent than any physical shrine or form. His return to Ayodhya is precisely because his worshippers have understood and experienced Ram as a spiritual potency and force rather than a merely physical entity. Only Sanatanis, I feel, are capable of such patience, such faith. The others give up when the physical form is smashed or broken. We don't.

The veneration of Ram is based on an unbroken chain of spiritual transmission and transformation that is believed to go back to the source of our planetary existence, the Sun, who is our presiding star. Raghuvamsha, or the lineage of Ram, is celebrated in the *Ramayan* and many other texts including Kalidasa's great poem by that name. In historic times, from Shivaji's Guru Samarth Ramdas to the father of our nation Mahatma Gandhi, Ram has been the *ishta devata*, the chosen ideal of hundreds of millions.

A small fraction of them had lined the streets of Ayodhya to welcome us, the first pilgrims to his rebuilt temple. The joyous and elevating *shraddha* or confidence, belief and adoration of Ram was so extraordinary that arguments among the sceptical elite in urban drawing rooms were rendered irrelevant. Whatever we may think, say or believe, Ram is a national hero whose adoration spills across every boundary or barrier. As our former Prime Minister P V Narasimha Rao, under whose watch the Babri Masjid was felled, reportedly said, "I can fight the BJP, but how can I fight Lord Ram?"

Indeed. I thought of Bapu, so maligned and disparaged today. What would he have felt? The Ram *dhun* that was played throughout the ceremony was an unmistakable tribute to him, because he had re-popularised it all over India. But it was clear that in today's India, only the first line from medieval saint-poet Tulsi held: "*Raghupati raghav Raja Ram, patita pawan Sita Ram*." Gandhi's innovation—"*Ishwar Allah tero naam, sab ko sanmati de bhagwan*"—was seemingly eclipsed in the new republic.

Hindus would say even to this day, "*Ishwar Allah tero naam*." On the contrary, believing Muslims would have to swear by the fundamental article of their faith—"*La ilaha ill'allah*" or "there is no god but allah". What of Ram, then? Or for that matter, the thousands of other deities worshipped around the world? If Hindus and Muslims had *sanmati* or harmony, would there have been the Partition and the accompanying bloodletting? We must accept facts. Gandhi's project, idealistic and desirable though it was, failed.

PTI

India does not have a state religion. Not yet. Its Constitution remains unchanged. But its leaders no longer shy away from stating and practising their faith in public. Let us not forget that Nehruvian secularism itself functioned as a sort of state religion

Does this mean that Hindutva has triumphed instead? I'm not sure. It would be difficult to classify most of those participating in the *pran pratishtha* of the Ram mandir as Hindutvavadis. Rather, they represented the diversity of the multidenominational traditions that constitute Hinduism and India itself. Many of those who attended would not even consider themselves Hindus except in the broadest cultural or civilisational sense. Not all of the 8,000 or so invitees from business, industry, commerce, arts, cinema, bureaucracy, armed forces, media and the intelligentsia could be champions of or adherents of Hindutva. They were drawn from a broad spectrum of India's civil society.

Yes, the Sangh Parivaar—the extended family of RSS institutions of which the ruling BJP party and the Vishwa Hindu Parishad, which organised the event, are part—spearheaded the Ram Janmabhoomi movement and brought the temple reconstruction to fruition. But this does not mean that they did not have popular support from across the country; nor that everyone who worships at the Ram mandir is an adherent of what has been termed 'political Hinduism'.

What, then, has changed? India does not have a state religion. Not yet. Its Constitution remains unchanged. But its leaders—from the prime minister, who is the head of the government, to cabinet ministers, chief ministers and other state functionaries—no longer shy away from stating and practising their faith in public. Let us not forget that Nehruvian secularism itself functioned as a sort of state religion. Now it is political Hinduism that has taken its place. And what is more, the populace approves.

Even more importantly, Indian politics has shifted from negative and divisive minoritarianism to positive and inclusive majoritarianism. Even Ram, in this dark granite Krishnashila form, is the god of the downtrodden and marginalised— of Shabari, Guha and Jatayu, apart from the army of subaltern vanaras—as was amply made clear during the *pran pratishtha*. The very *bahujan samaj* that was sought to be pitted against the remaking of his temple.

FROM THE APP TO THE TABLE

OPINION

GEETHA RAVICHANDRAN
Former bureaucrat and
author most recently of *The Spell of the Rain Tree*

JANUARY is a month when harvest festivals are celebrated across India. Unsurprisingly, it is also a celebration of food, with fresh produce being an integral part of the cuisine. In Tamil Nadu, newly harvested sugarcane is chewed to mark sweet, new beginnings during Pongal. Seasonal crops from the farm to the table determine what's on the menu. However, increasingly for many of our urban youth, the only familiar link is from the app to the table.

The benefits of food delivery apps cannot be overstated. It has offered solutions to multiple challenges. Lack of time to shop for groceries and staples, lack of inclination or the skill to cook, and doing the dishes have all been taken care of by the click of an icon. But the effect it has had on eating habits and schedules, health and its role in rupturing traditions is another story.

Recently, when we went house hunting, I noticed something uniform in many of the newly constructed apartments. The kitchens were tiny, functional storage spaces. The real estate agent explained to us that many of the younger generation double-income families preferred it that way. Access to food delivery services has simplified their lives.

The centrality of the kitchen in most homes may begin to diminish. The advantage of food apps is that women of the household need no longer be tethered to the stove. But the immersive alchemy of cooking in homes may become a thing of the past. The various stages of preparation like the hissing stove, the softening of the raw to the edible, the wafting of aromas maybe confined to cloud kitchens.

The major food experience that will survive is the burst of flavours as we spoon the dish. With home-cooked food, there may be days of over-salted or burnt food on the plate. We emerge none the worse for it. We learn to value the process and leftovers are recycled. Now, even apps have learnt the trick. Pazhya sadam, or leftover rice soaked in water overnight, is available on one of the apps for a price.

Food is an intensely personal matter. Even people living together under the same roof have different preferences. Food delivery apps may customise a dish after they ask a dozen questions. But there are nuances of taste that they can never cater to. Further, the consumption of processed foods with artificial additives, which cause health issues, are on the rise, thanks to food delivery.

There are social media influencers who have gone vocal for local, vocal for seasonal. Year 2023 was marked as one of millets. Incentives for the production of millets have raised awareness about the health benefits and availability of these indigenous grains. There are also valid concerns that exotic food ingredients raise carbon footprints and distort the local supply chain.

EXPRESS

Food apps offer solutions to multiple challenges—from a lack of time to shop and unwillingness to cook to having to do the dishes. But the freshness of getting an ingredient from the farm to the table, as celebrated during Pongal, is missing

The implications of the food we eat on health are well documented. India has the dubious distinction of being the diabetic capital of the world. Obesity, heart disease, and several other diseases are linked to the quality of diet. The food delivery business has begun to embrace the need for healthier options, at an extra cost of course.

But they need to move on from being mere convenience stores and keep the long-term interests of their customers in mind. I would like to imagine a chatbot telling a teenage customer ordering three extra-large cheese pizzas with extra cheese and three bottles of coke at midnight that it's too much food for one person at that hour. And suggesting healthier options.

According to a recent report, food delivery has expanded its reach in semi-urban areas with almost two crore users. There is homogenisation and standardisation of their products. At this juncture, preserving the rich and varied culinary heritage assumes importance. There are, of course, food shows and dedicated channels. More recipe books and food histories are being written. Keeping food traditions intact help define communities and cement a national culinary identity.

The practice of annadhanam and offering cooked food as prasad in places of worship exemplify the belief that food is sacred. Food is meant to be shared. Mindful eating is given importance in various schools of yoga. Ultimately, we are what we eat. Food wastage is unethical. Food does not merely sustain and nourish us. It defines our most intimate connection with the planet.

(ravichandran.geetha@gmail.com)

QUOTE CORNER

Let me get this straight: we are bombing them because of a couple of guys in dinghies are in support of Palestinians... We're bombing one of the poorest countries. I'm so sorry your Amazon packages are delayed, I really am. But [it's] genocide, guys, genocide.

Myriam François, British journalist and filmmaker, on US-led forces bombing Yemen in retaliation of Houthi rebels disrupting the busy Red Sea shipping lanes

All participants in the conflict must ensure that all fighting and hostilities come to an immediate halt and that remaining hostages are unconditionally released.

Dalveer Bhandari, one of the 17 judges of the ICJ hearing South Africa's case against Israel; he was the only one calling for an immediate ceasefire

I am—how can I say it?—running out of energy. I have no problem now obviously. But I know that I cannot do the job again and again and again.

Jurgen Klopp, Liverpool manager, announcing that he will quit the football club at the end of this season, two years before his contract gets over

MAILBAG WRITE TO letters@newindianexpress.com

Poverty claim

According to NITI Aayog, about 25 crore people have moved above the poverty line in the last nine years. This should make us all glad if it is true. It is imperative that some details of those who have moved up are provided, so that the veracity of the claim can be crosschecked. Such a move would have serious consequences—for instance, benefits extended to BPL families like free ration, medical care would cease. Have these happened?

K R Jayaprakash Rao, Mysuru

Climate message

It is really disturbing that climate change has been playing havoc with agriculture. Extensive awareness is the need of the hour. In areas close to my home, such as Korkai, Tiruchendur, Tuticorin, Nagercoil, Tirunelveli, Marthandam and Kanyakumari in Tamil Nadu, students have been planting saplings as part of social awareness programmes. They are spreading the right messages with verve. This area is a major hub for cultivating paddy, banana and betel nut.

P Senthil Saravana Durai, Vazhavallan

Vocational choice

Ref: *Job crisis must be an election issue* (Jan 27). The present crisis shows that degrees are no longer considered passports to jobs. Skills training should start as soon as the ninth standard. All schools should have one half of academic stream and the other of vocational stream, with flexibilty on switching. When the students complete school, the government should arrange for apprenticeship in chosen vocations.

P Prema, Thanjavur

Academic standards

Both the UDF and LDF in Kerala seem to forget their ideological differences when there is a threat to their operations on college campuses. This unity was palpable when the parties attacked the governor for refusing to sign a bill that reduced his powers as chancellor. The recent untoward incident in Maharaja's College should make all intellectuals in the state open their eyes. Yes, the youth should learn basic political lessons, but it should not be at the cost of academic standards.

Bijumon P N, Idukki

Haphazard campaign

Time is running out and INDIA bloc partners are at their wits' end on the division of seats. With secular democracy on decline, the emergence of nefarious forces with regional and casteist appeal will pave the way for a campaign of hatred and malice in this election. Powerful regional parties are losing their individuality. Hasty alliances without a national agenda will cut no ice.

R Pichumani, Kumbakonam

Mamata's snub

Rahul Gandhi, who was shouting about his democratic right being snatched away by the Assam chief minister, has to now face the embarrassment of his INDIA ally Mamata's refusal to help his yatra in Bengal. Has he got the guts to charge Mamata as he did the Assam CM? It will be no wonder if he keeps silent on the issue after Mamata's snub.

V S Ganeshan, Bengaluru

Power play

Some of our political leaders hold on to positions till they breathe their last. As long as caste and dynastic politics exist, their desire somehow gets fulfilled. It seems that Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar is one among them.

P P Sahadevan, Nileshwar

RIP Bhavatharani

Ref: *Bhavatharani's body brought back to Chennai, funeral to be held in Theni* (Jan 27). Noted playback singer and Ilaiyaraaja's daughter Bhavatharani's passing away at a young age comes as a huge shock. Bhavatharani was a prominent figure in the Tamil film music industry, having lent her voice to popular songs in over 30 films. She tasted success with her first song—'*Masthana masthana*' in the film *Raasaiyya*. May her soul rest in peace.

R Sivakumar, Chennai

THE NEW SUNDAY EXPRESS

Chairman of the Board: **Manoj Kumar Sonthalia** Editor: **Santwana Bhattacharya**

Published by **R K Jhunjhunwala** on behalf of Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited, at No. 1, Queen's Road, Bengaluru - 560 001 and printed by him at Express Press, Plot No. 2A, Bommasandra Industrial Area, 4th Phase, Survey No. 46, Part Yarandahalli Village, Jigani Hobli, Anekal Taluk. Bengaluru - 560 099. **Bengaluru.** Vol. 25, No. 4 RNI Reg. No. KARENG\2000\03040. Phone: 080-22866893. **Copyright:** Express Publications (Madurai) Private Limited. All rights reserved. Reproduction in any manner, electronic or otherwise, in whole or in part, without prior written permission is prohibited.

POSTS OF THE DAY

Pralhad Joshi @JoshiPralhad
RJD and Congress are parties of corrupt people. This is a party that fights only for its family. They have nothing to do with the problems and difficulties of people.

Subramanian Swamy @Swamy39
French President has been to India seven times during Modi's tenure. Each time there has been heavy purchases by India of French produced military equipment principally Rafale. Why?

Arvind Kejriwal @ArvindKejriwal
They contacted 7 of our MLAs in Delhi. I am not being arrested to investigate any liquor scam but they are conspiring to topple the AAP government in Delhi.

India, France to co-produce def equipment

The two sides to jointly design critical defence machinery that could also be supplied to other 'friendly countries'

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

TO lend more weight to the bilateral defence ties, India and France have agreed to tread the path of "co-design, co-development, co-production" of equipment which could be supplied to other friendly countries.

"President Macron and PM Modi reiterated their commitment to further deepen the integration between the two countries' respective defence industrial sectors and work together to identify opportunities to co-design and co-develop equipment to provide a viable and reliable source of defence supplies to other friendly countries," said a joint statement.

The statement came on the eve of India's 75th Republic Day celebration, attended by French President Emmanuel Macron as the chief guest. This was Macron's second state visit to India and the sixth by a French leader as a guest of honour for the Republic Day.

In the broader context of the ambitious collaboration, the two sides welcomed the progress in the establishment of the MRO (maintenance, repair and overhaul) for LEAP (leading edge aviation propulsion) engines in India by the manufacturing giant Safran. The other plans include MRO (manufacture, repair and overhaul) for Rafale engines, a helicopter partnership between HAL and Safran, and the Scorpene submarines constructed in India, including indigenisation."

France is the second largest supplier of defence equipment to India, the first being Russia.

The Indo-Pacific region was also a part of the joint statement with an agreement to intensify cooperation. They also agreed to intensify their cooperation in the Southwest Indian Ocean, building on the joint surveillance missions carried out from the French island territory of La Reunion in 2020 and 2022, the statement added.

The two sides said the trajectory is set for the partnership beyond 2047. India and France had declared their strategic partnership in 1998.

Macron's visit for India's Republic Day follows the Prime Minister's historic visit to France as a guest of honour at the French National Day on July 14, 2023, during which the two leaders unveiled Horizon 2047, a roadmap to set an ambitious course for the relationship for 2047, the centenary year of India's independence.

Cutting costs, enhancing benefits

In 2021
Govt announced Maintenance, Repair and Overhaul (MRO) guidelines to create atmosphere for the industry dealing in aircraft/ copter/ drones, engines and other parts

The Indian MRO market is estimated at $1.4 billion in **2023**

French defence major Thales says it plans to set up avionics MRO in Delhi for its airline customers

With **36** Rafale jets procured, India aims to boost IAF capabilities

India, France aim to co-develop defence tech, expand maritime cooperation

INS Visakhapatnam helps fight fire in UK oil tanker

MAYANK SINGH @ New Delhi

INDIAN guided missile destroyer INS Visakhapatnam extended help to a merchant vessel that had a fire accident onboard following a missile attack. The vessel has 22 Indians and one Bangladeshi crew onboard. Yemen's Houthi rebels later claimed responsibility for the attack.

The Indian Navy on Saturday said INS Visakhapatnam, deployed in the Gulf of Aden, responded to a distress call from MV Marlin Luanda on the night of January 26. The destroyer deployed the ship's team along with firefighting equipment to help the crew onboard the distressed merchant vessel.

As per reports, the vessel was struck by a missile in the Gulf of Aden, after transiting the Red Sea. Houthi rebels claimed that their naval forces carried out an operation targeting the British oil tanker Marlin Luanda.

Houthi military spokesperson Yahya Sarea in a statement said the strike was "direct" using "appropriate naval missiles." The ship is operated on behalf of multinational trading giant Trafigura based out of Singapore.

NITISH KUMAR

A CRAFTY CAT WITH NINE LIVES

RAMASHANKAR

SWITCHING loyalties comes so naturally to Bihar's Chief Minister Nitish Kumar that, on all these tense occasions, he achieves the outcome efficiently and with aplomb. Each time he reaffirmed his unenviable moniker—Palturam—he wore his trademark disarming smile in front of the press, as though being a champion turncoat was all in a day's work.

Politicians at the national and state levels, however, concede him an astonishing political acumen and an impeccable sense of timing. He is likely to break away from the ruling Grand Alliance in Bihar and form a new government with his old ally BJP again. If things go along expected lines, he will be sworn in as chief minister for the ninth time on Sunday.

Nitish, a seasoned politician adept at running coalitions, initially prepared the ground for dumping the Grand Alliance. A war of words between JD(U) and RJD, the two major constituents of the alliance, had been going on for over a month on one pretext or the other. It reached a peak when Lalu's Singapore-based daughter, Rohini Acharya, posted on X taunting Nitish for frequently switching sides.

NEWSMAKER

The situation is a mirror of August 2022. Nitish had snapped ties with the NDA and formed a government with the Grand Alliance despite getting the 2020 assembly mandate as an NDA member. Even then, he had given himself time to prepare before taking a shot at Delhi. The operation to dump his then BJP deputy, Sushil Modi, was so smooth that his deputy never realised what hit him before the game was up.

Sushil Modi had clearly forgotten the events of 2013, when Nitish had walked out from the NDA after Narendra Modi was elected the BJP election committee chairman for the 2014 polls. Four years later, Nitish was back in the NDA when the partner he had abandoned, RJD's Tejaswi Yadav, failed to respond to his charges on the IRCTC land-for-jobs scam.

There is another side to Nitish's persona that sets him apart from other politicians of the crafty variety—he never projects himself as a prime ministerial aspirant. This time, voices of support have started coming out from within the JD(U). The party repeatedly demanded that he be projected as the prime ministerial candidate of the united opposition. Nitish, however, said he didn't wish for any post and only wanted to defeat the BJP in 2024. He had undoubtedly played a crucial role in forging opposition unity and formulating an electoral strategy. But the delay in seat-sharing and getting less importance at opposition meetings compelled him to think otherwise.

Nitish was born on March 1, 1951, at Bakhtiyarpur in Patna district, where his father 'Kaviraj' Ram Lakhan Singh was an ayurveda practitioner, while his mother Parameshwari Devi was a housemaker. An engineering graduate from Bihar College of Engineering (now an NIT), Nitish was an active participant in the JP movement, which proved to be a launching pad for his political career, as it did for others like Lalu Prasad and Sushil Modi.

But his entry into politics was not without some initial setbacks. He suffered two successive defeats in the 1977 and 1980 assembly polls from Harnaut in Nalanda district. He contemplated taking up a career in business, but sought a last chance from his wife Manju Kumari Sinha. Nitish's close friend Munna Sarkar collected donations for him to contest the polls in 1985. His wife chipped in ₹20,000 from her savings. The result: he won the Harnaut seat.

This was followed by a string of victories in LS polls before he assumed chief ministership in 2005. He had become CM in 2000 too, but had resigned when it was clear he would lose the floor test.

All through, Nitish has maintained a clean image and never patronised 'parivarvad'. His only son, Nishant Kumar, is an engineering graduate from BIT Mesra and prefers to remain out of media glare.

Poll strategist Prashant Kishor once said, "One fine day, [Nitish] will appear before the media and say that he took the decision [to shift] in the larger interest of the state and its development." India is waiting for that day again.

BJP's LS poll in-charges for 23 states and UTs

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

AMID the possibility of Bihar Chief Minister Nitish Kumar quitting the grand alliance and coming aboard, the ruling BJP on Saturday appointed election in-charges and co-in-charges for 23 states and Union territories for the upcoming Lok Sabha polls, including Bihar.

According to a notification, the party's national general secretary Vinod Tawde will be election in-charge in Bihar, with Rajya Sabha member and former Jharkhand chief Deepak Prakash as co-in-charge.

Similarly, vice-president Baijayant Jay Panda has been made the election in-charge for Uttar Pradesh, while national general secretary Dushyant Kumar Gautam will handle Uttarakhand. Rajya Sabha MP and party national vice-president Laxmikant Bajpai has been appointed as election in-charge for Jharkhand. Former Tripura chief minister Biplab Kumar Deb will be the election in-charge for Haryana.

Mangal Pandey, the former state minister and BJP's in-charge for West Bengal has been appointed the election in-charge for Bihar. Party leaders Amit Malviya and Asha Lakra will be co-in-charges for West Bengal. Mahindra Singh, an MLC in Uttar Pradesh, has been appointed in-charge for Madhya Pradesh.

While former Gujarat chief minister and BJP in-charge for Punjab Vijay Rupani has been appointed for Punjab and Chandigarh. Former UP minister Shrikant Sharma will be the election in-charge for Himachal Pradesh.

The party has appointed national general secretary Radha Mohan Das Aggarwal as the election in-charge for Karnataka.

BJP co-in-charge for political affairs in Jammu and Kashmir Ashish Sood was named as the election in-charge for Goa. Gujarat MLA Purnesh Modi has been made the in-charge for Daman and Diu.

Party leader Ashok Singhal has been appointed as the election in-charge for Arunachal Pradesh. Y Satya Kumar, in-charge for political affairs in Andaman and Nicobar, has been made the election in-charge for the UT.

Tawde for Bihar, Javadekar for Kerala

According to a notification, the party's national general secretary Vinod Tawde will be election in-charge in Bihar. Senior BJP leader and former Union minister Prakash Javadekar was made the in-charge for elections in Kerala.

ISRO's POEM-3 will leave no debris, achieves all objectives

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE
@Bengaluru

AFTER the successful launch of XPoSat (X-ray Polarimeter Satellite) to study black holes and neutron stars on January 1, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has achieved another milestone. The PSLV Orbital Experimental Module-3 (POEM-3), which carried 10 experimental payloads, has achieved all its objectives.

Usually, the fourth stage of the PSLV is left to burn in space which creates space debris. However, with POEM, several experiments are being conducted on space technologies developed by public and private organisations.

The space agency aims to conduct more experiments with POEM-3 to generate data for future missions. With the orbital decay and reentry of POEM-3 in three months, the PSLV-C58 XPoSat mission will leave zero debris in space.

"After deploying the satellite into its intended orbit at 650 km, the vehicle was lowered to 350 km circular orbit to minimise the time of orbit decay after completion of the experiment. It is a three-axis-attitude controlled platform with power generation, telecommand and telemetry capabilities to support payloads," ISRO said in a statement. In 25 days since its launch, POEM-3 has completed 400 orbits around the Earth. The space agency added that its current orbit measures 322 km by 352 km. It is predicted that POEM-3 will continue orbiting for approximately 73 more days before re-entering the Earth's atmosphere.

The experiments of ARKA200 (Xenon Based Electric Propulsion) and RUDRA (HAN-based Green Propellant Thruster) from Bellatrix, and LEAP-TD (Satellite Bus with VHF/UHF Downlink and UHF Uplink – Tested using IIST ground station) from Dhruva Space were completed, said ISRO. The data from WESAT–Women Engineered SATellite, developed by Lal Bahadur Shastri Institute of Technology for Women, is being collected regularly to study the solar irradiance and UV index.

Similarly, BeliefSat0 (Amateur Radio satellite), developed by KJ Somaya Institute of Technology, RSEM (Radiation Shielding experiment) from TakeMe2Space, and DEX which focuses on interplanetary dust particle experiments from Physical Research Laboratory (PRL) for every orbit, is also being monitored. 100 W Fuel Cell Power System(FCPS) and Si-C based High Power Li-Ion (10AH/32V) Battery from Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC) were also demonstrated.

ISRO gears up for launch of meteorological satellite

Bengaluru: INSAT-3DS, India's exclusive meteorological satellite developed by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO), arrived at the Satish Dhawan Space Centre, Sriharikota, (SDSC-SHAR) launch port on January 25 for launch onboard the GSLV F14. The satellite will provide continuity of services to the existing in-orbit INSAT-3D and 3DR satellites and significantly enhance the capabilities of the INSAT system. The satellite is an user-funded project with the Ministry of Earth Sciences (MoES), with a Lift-Off Mass of 2,275 kg. Indian industries have significantly contributed to the making of the satellite, ISRO said in a statement on Saturday. The satellite has been designed for enhanced meteorological observations and monitoring of land and ocean surfaces for weather forecasting and disaster warning. **ENS**

Modi lauds women & youth power at NCC rally

RAJESH KUMAR THAKUR @ New Delhi

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inspects the Guard of Honour during the NCC rally at Cariappa Ground in New Delhi on Saturday | SHEKHAR YADAV

PRIME Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday asserted that the entire world is closely observing India's 'Nari-Shakti' (women power) and 'Yuva-Shakti' (Youth-power), as these two immense potentials of the country are proving their mettle in various fields. Addressing the annual NCC PM Rally in New Delhi, PM Modi remarked, "In the last 10 years, India's digital economy has emerged as a new source of strength for our youth. Today, whether it's start-ups or self-help groups, women are leaving their mark in every field."

Before addressing the event, PM Modi flagged off a mega Cyclothon by NCC girls and the Narishakti Vandan Run from Jhansi to Delhi. He highlighted that the presence of more than 400 Sarpanches from border villages, being developed under the Vibrant Villages scheme, and over 100 women from Self-Help Groups (SHGs) exemplify India's unity in diversity.

PM Modi emphasised the measures taken by his government to empower youth and women and fulfill the aspirations and dreams of all, stating, "You all are the architects of a developed India. Women were previously limited to cultural programs, but our government has opened up various sectors, including all three services, to them, and they are excelling everywhere."

He mentioned that the number of women in central security forces has doubled in the last decade, and a digital revolution has unleashed the creativity of the youth. Criticizing previous political administrations for neglecting the development of border villages, he noted that these villages are now being transformed into significant tourist centers through the 'vibrant village' program.

PM Modi also informed NCC cadets that India boasts the third-largest start-up ecosystem with over 1.25 lakh start-ups and more than 100 unicorns. He predicted that the youth currently studying in schools and colleges would be the biggest beneficiaries of his government's efforts to develop India into a developed nation in 25 years.

Furthermore, he pointed out that India has become the second-largest mobile phone manufacturer and importer, emphasising that the NCC cadet rally strengthens the spirit of 'One world, one family, one future.' PM Modi highlighted the growing participation of women in various fields, drawing inspiration from Vedic scriptures that have always regarded women as 'Shakti' (power).

He said that India is being looked upon as 'Vishwa-Mitra' (a global friend), and many countries see opportunities in the talent and skills of Indian youth. PM Modi touched upon various achievements and initiatives undertaken by his government in the past decade to empower women and youth. Other prominent attendees at the event included Defence Minister Rajnath Singh, Director General of NCC Lt. Gen. Gurbirpal Singh, and top officials from the defence sector.

Sharif's party manifesto says Art 370 restoration key to India relations

YESHI SELI @ New Delhi

WITH less than two weeks left for the February 8 general elections in Pakistan, Nawaz Sharif's party, Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz (PMLN), has released its manifesto. The PMLN manifesto discusses the restoration of Article 370 as a prerequisite for normalising ties with India.

"PMLN strongly maintains the position that normalisation of ties with India cannot take place until New Delhi reverses the unilateral measures taken on August 5, 2019, to restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir," states the manifesto.

It also emphasises that India-Pakistan relations should be anchored in mutual respect, a shared vision for regional stability, and economic growth.

The focus of the manifesto is on bringing Pakistan's economy back on track, the message of peace to India, a vow to combat climate change, and zero-tolerance towards terrorism.

Regarding China, the manifesto talks about forging even closer ties and delivering the next phase of the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) on time. The CPEC, which connects Gwadar Port in Pakistan's Balochistan with China's Xinjiang province, is opposed by India as it would be built through Pakistan Occupied Kashmir (PoK), which is Indian territory.

Interestingly, the manifesto also discusses working with the US to counter terrorism. It also mentions combating violence against minorities and empowering women.

Meanwhile, Pakistan's former foreign minister, Bilawal Bhutto Zardari, has been urging Sharif to engage in a public debate with him, similar to the practice in the West, to allow both of them to present their views to the public.

"Globally, presidential and prime ministerial candidates participate in televised debates, providing voters with crucial insights. This transparency is vital for an informed electorate ahead of the voting process," Bilawal said.

Additionally, Pakistan's election commission has announced that there will be 90,000 polling stations catering to 128 million voters.

Normalisation of ties with India cannot take place until New Delhi reverses the unilateral measures taken on August 5, 2019, to restore Article 370 in Jammu and Kashmir

Pakistan Muslim League Nawaz manifesto

FARMER SUICIDE

A 44-year-old farmer died by suicide at the site of a protest, being held in connection with a dam, in Maharashtra's Amravati district, a police officer said. Farmers are protesting against the Upper Wardha dam.

150 HUTS RAZED TO CLEAR LAND BEHIND SOMNATH TEMPLE

INDIA	Max	Min		Max	Min
Ahmedabad	18	08	Mumbai	22	33
Bhopal	30	16	Panaji	18	12
Jaipur	24	11	Patna	20	10
Amritsar	18	08	Lucknow	19	09
Chennai	27	33	Port Blair	28	24
Kolkata	23	12	Imphal	25	06
Srinagar	09	00	Chandigarh	35	19

■ Bhajan Lal Sharma's 'secret' meet with Raje seen as a bid to appease her ■ Cong chief says some miscreants may foment trouble

Uproar over no prominent place for Raje at Raj House

Former CM Vasundhara Raje has been placed in opposition's line. This clearly shows the internal discord within the BJP... Our former chief minister always sits next to the opposition leader

Govind Singh Dotasara, Congress state president

RAJESH ASNANI @ Jaipur

RAJASTHAN Chief Minister Bhajan Lal Sharma recently held a discreet meeting with former chief minister and senior BJP leader **Vasundhara Raje** at her residence.

The meeting, which occurred late on Friday evening, was kept confidential, giving rise to fresh speculation within the state's political circles. Sources indicate that the conversation between Sharma and Raje lasted around 20 minutes.

The Bhajan-Raje meeting came days after Congress state president Govind Singh Dotasara attacked the BJP over the seat allotted to Vasundhara Raje in the Rajasthan Assembly.

He targeted the internal discord in the BJP, saying, "Former chief minister Vasundhara Raje has been placed in the opposition's line. This clearly shows the internal discord within the BJP...Our former chief minister always sits next to the opposition leader. But Vasundhara ji has been brought right to the border. The seat allotted to Raje has been given next to RLD MLA Subhash Garg, BJP MLA Rajkumar Raut, and RLP MLA Hanuman Beniwal right behind them. This arrangement for her seat next to the opposition MLAs reflects the rift in BJP."

Political circles in the state are buzzing that CM Bhajan Lal's effort to meet Raje is an effort at damage control and a bid to appease the former CM.

Despite BJP's return to power in Rajasthan, Vasundhara Raje, initially a strong contender for the Chief Ministerial post, was passed over in favour of Sharma, a first-time MLA.

Raje's absence from the cabinet expansion ceremony on December 30 and the dinner with Prime Minister Narendra Modi and party MLAs on January 5 further strengthened her disillusionment rumours. However, when PM Modi visited Jaipur on January 25, Raje was visible at the airport, welcoming him, a moment that went viral on social media.

Political observers say that she is not one to tolerate being sidelined. There are speculations to express her discontent with the high command; she may stoke unrest at various levels leading up to the next Lok Sabha elections.

Unrest brewing

Political observers say she is not one to tolerate being sidelined. There are speculations that express her discontent with high command; she may stoke unrest at various levels leading up to the next Lok Sabha elections.

Ensure safe passage of Rahul yatra: Kharge to Didi

I have been made aware that again, some miscreants may foment trouble for the yatra. I am unsure if the intention may be to show the state administration in a bad light or to disrupt the yatra

Mallikarjun Kharge, Congress president

PRANAB MODAL @ Kolkata

CONGRESS president **Mallikarjun Kharge** on Saturday urged West Bengal Chief Minister Mamata Banerjee to issue appropriate directions to authorities to ensure a safe passage to the Rahul Gandhi-led Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra, which is passing through the state. In a letter, Kharge said that he has learnt that "some miscreants may foment trouble" for the Yatra, possibly to show the West Bengal administration in a bad light or disrupt the march.

Kharge's letter came at a time when Mamata, ruling out alliance with INDIA bloc partner Congress three days ago, announced that the Trinamool Congress would fight in all 42 Lok Sabha seats in Bengal alone.

"I'm aware that the Gandhi family and you share very cordial relations, and you would ensure that all security concerns would be addressed adequately. However, I thought it would be best if I write to you requesting for the same," the veteran leader said, reminding Mamata of her cordial relations with the Gandhi family.

Gandhi's Nyay Yatra entered Bengal's Cooch Behar on Thursday, a day after Mamata ruled out seat adjustment in the state, from where the Congress leader flew to Delhi to take a Republic Day break.

He is scheduled to start the Yatra on Sunday. The event will cover Jalpaiguri, Alipurduar, Darjeeling, and North Dinajpur before reaching Bihar.

The yatra will re-enter West Bengal and pass through Malda and Murshidabad, two strongholds of the grand old party.

Kharge referred to the face-off between the Rahul Gandhi-led event and Himanta Biswa Sarma's government in Assam. "The first Bharat-Jodo Yatra went across the country without any untoward incident and culminated in a rally in Kashmir. However, you would know that some miscreants targeted the current Bharat Jodo Yatra in your neighbouring states. This has been done on political instigation, but our cadre faced it bravely," Kharge wrote.

A massive row erupted as Congress workers clashed with police and broke through barricades after they were stopped outside Assam's Guwahati during the Yatra.

Yatra to start again today

Rahul Gandhi's yatra entered Cooch Behar on Thursday, a day after the TMC chief ruled out sharing of seats with INDIA bloc ally Congress in Bengal. Gandhi is scheduled to resume his Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra on Sunday

RAIPUR DIARY

EJAZ KAISER
Our correspondent in Chhattisgarh
ejaz@newindianexpress.com

Ex-CM Baghel gets a new challenging role

Former Chhattisgarh CM Bhupesh Baghel gets a new role as senior observer not just to coordinate the second phase of Rahul Gandhi's Bharat Jodo Nyay Yatra but also to work for the all-party related activities in Bihar. Baghel set aside the speculation of him contesting the upcoming Lok Sabha polls. Former CM has hit out at BJP over the state Anti Corruption Bureau registering an FIR in the alleged coal and liquor scam cases against many claiming that this is being done with an eye on the LS polls. Baghel said that he would prefer to campaign for the party in the state.

First budget session of BJP govt from Feb 5

The budget session of Chhattisgarh Assembly to start from February 5 will be keenly watched on two fronts. Firstly, how the BJP will meet the demands of 'Modi Ki Guarantee' as the ruling party promised hiked paddy procurement, monthly grants to married women, among several others. Secondly, the ruling party is likely to attack the Congress on several issues that the BJP claimed owing to alleged misgovernance in the state. The first time MLA OP Choudhary, as the state finance minister, will present the budget for the fiscal year 2024-25. There will be 20 sittings.

C'garh govt bans opening of new liquor outlets

The state government has decided not to open new liquor shops in Chhattisgarh even as the state cabinet approved the excise policy to be adopted from the financial year 2024-25. The sale of liquor is done by Chhattisgarh State Marketing Corporation Limited through 750-plus government-owned shops. Sources said that though the state government is going against opening new liquor outlets, efforts will be made to increase the revenue through curtailing corrupt practices. Amid the political scuffle on liquor ban or scam, the sale has substantially surged as guzzlers steadily kept the state's coffers brimming with high earnings.

J'KHAND

ED letter to Soren in land scam case

MUKESH RANJAN @ Ranchi

THE Enforcement Directorate (ED) has once again reached out to Chief Minister Hemant Soren, urging him to determine a suitable date and location for questioning. They have proposed either January 29 or January 31 in their letter. This communication marks the tenth summon directed at Soren, as he previously expressed his unavailability for a meeting before March 31 due to prior commitments following the ninth summon.

In response to Soren's previous correspondence after the ninth summon, the ED has issued this current letter. Within it, the ED has requested that Soren choose a suitable time and place for the second round of questioning on either January 29 or January 31. Failing his response, they have conveyed their intention to conduct the questioning at his official residence.

It's noteworthy that after being summoned for the eighth time regarding the case, Soren eventually agreed to participate in the investigation. As a result, he underwent questioning by the ED at his Ranchi residence on January 20, a session lasting over seven hours.

Fresh gunfight erupts in strife-torn Manipur as tribal bodies up ante

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Guwahati

VIOLENCE in Manipur continued as two unidentified groups were engaged in a gunfight for several hours on Saturday.

No casualties have been reported yet. The gunfight broke out at around 6 am when armed men entered the vicinity of the Satang Kuki village in the Kangpokpi district and opened fire and stopped at around 11:30 am. Later, shots were fired intermittently till 4 pm.

Meanwhile, in a declaration, the Indigenous Tribal Leaders' Forum said that the Kuki-Zo tribals should approach the Mizoram government for their 'future political way forward.' "We cannot be under the government who killed and destroyed our churches and properties, who separated us physically and demographically and also who took an oath under militia group Arambai Tenggol. The Centre should directly administer us from Delhi," the declaration read.

We cannot be under the government who destroyed our churches, separated us physically and demographically The Centre should directly administer us from Delhi

ITLF declaration

The tribal organisation opposed the Centre's move to scrap the free movement regime agreement and fence the India-Myanmar border.

India and Myanmar had signed the FMR pact to facilitate the movement of people residing along the border and encourage people-to-people contact. It allowed them to travel up to 16 km inside each other's territories without travel documents.

The other decisions of the ITLF were to continue any form of agitations and actions as the need arises, support and cooperate with any plans, projects and policies made by ITLF to strengthen the movement, among others.

The Centre had signed separate SoO (suspension of operations) agreements with various Kuki rebel groups. "Meeting with SoO groups and our MLAs should be held with the initiative of Zo United as soon as possible. MHA should be questioned on the status of our political demand by joint signatures of SoO, MLAs and CSOs (civil society organisations)," the declaration added.

Maratha quota stir called off as Shinde accepts demands

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

ACTIVIST **Manoj Jarange** on Saturday called off his indefinite fast for Maratha quota after the Maharashtra government accepted his demands. Chief Minister Eknath Shinde announced that till Marathas get reservation, they will be given all the benefits enjoyed by the OBCs.

'Sage-soyare' is a Marathi term for 'relatives from the family tree'. According to the government notification, the term includes "relatives of an applicant's father, grandfather, great-grandfather, and in earlier generations forming out of marriages within the same caste." Jarange had launched his fast at Vashi in Navi Mumbai on Friday.

He had set out on a protest march from his native Antarwali Sarati village in Jalna district last Saturday. He originally planned to stage a hunger strike at Azad Maidan in South Mumbai from January 26.

On reaching Vashi on Friday, the morcha made an overnight halt but Jarange warned that they would enter Mumbai on Saturday for their planned protest if their demands were not met. The government then came out with a draft notification which fulfilled one of Jarange's key demands. It said that all blood relatives of a Maratha person, whose Kunbi caste records have been found, would also be recognised as Kunbi.

Kunbi falls in the OBC category, and Jarange, who is spearheading the agitation for reservation for the Marathas since last August, has been demanding Kunbi certificates for all Marathas. According to the notifications, the suggestions and objections will be invited by the people till February 16.

After conducting the field and caste verifications through Sage-Soyere, the Kunbi caste certificate should be issued immediately, it said. Ulhas Bapat, a constitutional expert, says 'Sage-Soyere' is a very tricky word used in the draft notifications. "CM Shinde has misguided the people over Maratha reservations," he said.

Fadnavis says all Marathas won't get Kunbi certs

SUDHIR SURYAWANSHI @ Mumbai

DEPUTY CM Devendra Fadnavis has clarified that Kunbi caste certificates will be given only to those Marathas whose records match with the category. Though Fadnavis congratulated CM Shinde and activist Jarange Patil he as well as his colleague Ajit Pawar distanced from celebrations at Vashi, the hub of Maratha quota activists.

Shinde along with and Jarange Patil addressed a crowd at Vashi in Navi Mumbai. "We cannot give Kunbi certificates to all Maratha community people. I am happy that Jarange Patil accepted it. Those who have the record (revenue and education) of Kunbi, they will be entitled to Kunbi caste certificate and avail of the benefits under OBCs. The draft notification will simplify the caste certificate issuance and validity process," Fadnavis said.

He said the draft notification will remove the fear from the minds of OBC beneficiaries.

C'garh set to create record in paddy procurement

EJAZ KAISER @ Raipur

CITED as the rice bowl of the country, Chhattisgarh is on its way to set a new record of paddy procurement at support price in the current kharif marketing season. The state has procured paddy weighing 127 lakh metric tons (LMT), the highest so far.

It is a huge achievement given that the state was carved out from Madhya Pradesh in November 2000. Back then, despite plentiful paddy production, farmers couldn't get suitable returns in the absence of an effective system.

In the year 2001, only 4.63 LMT was procured out of the state's total recorded production of around 23 LMT. As the bumper procurement continues, the new BJP government hopes the estimated target of 130 LMT will be realised easily. The procurement is carried out through cooperative societies and will continue till January 31.

Paddy procurement has always remained a major political issue in the state. Ahead of the assembly polls, key rivals tried outdo each other in offering the best returns as the minimum support price (MSP) to the farmers.

With every passing year, the strength of paddy growers and the registered sown paddy area have substantially gone up. There are at present 26.85 lakh registered farmers with the addition of 2.65 lakh new growers this year. The total paddy sown area on record is 33.48 lakh hectares.

The previous record procurement was 107.53 LMT during the Congress regime, symbolising the growth of the agrarian community as the beneficiaries in the state. Along with the procurement, the government has also released payments of over ₹27,504 crore to the paddy farmers.

The previous government under its Rajiv Gandhi Kisan Nyay Yojana purchased paddy at ₹2,500 per quintal. The BJP government has declared MSP at ₹31,00 per quintal for paddy and increased the procurement limit cap from the previous year 15 quintal per acre to 21 quintal per acre.

The number of paddy procurement centres in the state is 2739. The cooperative societies established for the convenience of the paddy growers were raised from 1,333 to 2,058. So far, over 84 LMT paddy of the total procured have been lifted for custom milling.

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of former PM Atal Bihari Vajpayee, the Sai government disbursed the pending paddy bonus amount of Rs 3,716 crore of the year 2016-17 and 2017-18 (earlier BJP's regime) to 11.76 lakh farmers.

MONEY IN THE RICE BOWL

IN YEAR 2000, WHEN CHHATTISGARH WAS CARVED OUT OF MP, FARMERS COULDN'T GET SUITABLE RETURNS IN THE ABSENCE OF AN EFFECTIVE SYSTEM.

Procurement in 2001: 4.63 LMT
This season: 130 LMT (projected)
Registered farmers: 26.85 lakh (2.65 lakh new growers expected)
Payment by govt: ₹27,504 CR
Procurement centres: 2,739

PRICE LAST YEAR: ₹2,500 PER QUINTAL (MSP) THIS YEAR: ₹3,100 PER QUINTAL

Rivals try to offer best returns to farmers

Paddy procurement has always remained a major political issue in the state. Ahead of the polls, key rivals tried to outdo each other in offering the best returns as the MSP to the farmers. With every passing year, the strength of paddy growers and the registered sown paddy area have substantially gone up. There are at present 26.85 lakh registered farmers with the addition of 2.65 lakh new growers this year. The total paddy sown area on record is 33.48 lakh hectares.

In a 1st, Punjab govt launches road safety force with 129 hi-tech vehicles

HARPREET BAJWA @ Chandigarh

IN a groundbreaking initiative, Punjab has unveiled a fleet of 129 state-of-the-art vehicles equipped with specialised equipment to combat drunk driving and overspeeding. This marks the launch of the first-of-its-kind 'Sadak Surakhya Force' (Road Safety Force) in the country. The primary objective behind this initiative is to reduce the annual road fatalities, which currently stand at approximately 3000, with an average of 14 lives lost daily in road accidents across the state.

CM Bhagwant Mann revealed that the government is also considering implementing a point-based system, similar to the one in the United States, Canada, and New Zealand. Under this system, repeat traffic offenders would accumulate demerit points on their driving licenses for each violation.

The 'Sadak Surakhya Force' comprises 1,600 personnel who will be deployed throughout Punjab's extensive 5,500-km network of national highways and state highways. Among these, there are 116 high-end Toyota Hilux vehicles equipped with cutting-edge gadgets and connected to nearby trauma centers to provide immediate assistance to accident victims. These SSF teams will be stationed every 30kms to ensure that victims receive medical attention within 15 minutes.

Mann officially inaugurated the 129 high-tech vehicles, marking a historic milestone for Punjab as the first state to launch such a comprehensive road safety initiative.

Mann addressed the audience at the PAP grounds in Jalandhar and drew attention to tragic accidents that have claimed the lives of prominent individuals, including former President Giani Zail Singh, Congress leader Rajesh Pilot, and comedian Jaspal Bhatti, emphasizing that accidents do not discriminate based on who is in the vehicle.

He stressed that the formation of this force was not a spontaneous decision but the result of extensive contemplation of the serious road accident problem. Mann recalled his efforts as a Member of Parliament, where he consistently raised the issue of road accidents in the Lok Sabha, highlighting the alarming rate of 12 deaths due to accidents in the state.

Mann also mentioned the introduction of a point system for driving licenses to deter chronic violators, ultimately leading to the cancellation of their licenses. The 'Sadak Surakhya Force' will be tasked with curbing reckless driving, improving traffic flow, and reducing road accidents.

Repeat traffic offenders to get demerit points

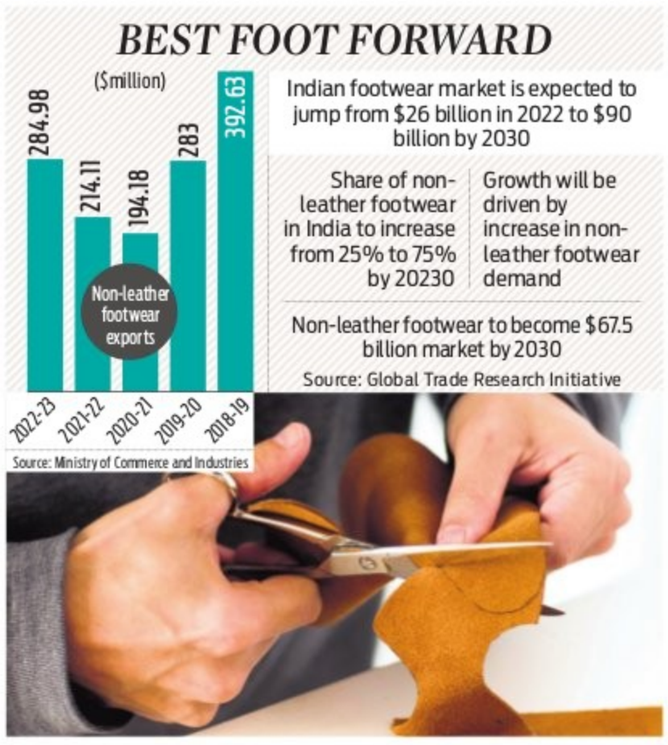
CM Bhagwant Mann revealed that the government is also considering implementing a point-based system, similar to the one in the United States, Canada, and New Zealand. Under this system, repeat traffic offenders would accumulate demerit points on their driving licenses for each violation.

₹16 CR net profit, a multi-fold jump, reported by Mangalam Cement on Saturday for the quarter ending December 2023

TN taps potential in footwear space

Suppliers of brands like Nike, Crocs, Adidas, Puma, others shifting mfg facility to the state

VAITHEESWARAN B @Chennai


BEST FOOT FORWARD
($million)
284.98
214.11
194.18
283
392.63
Non-leather footwear exports
2022-23
2021-22
2020-21
2019-20
2018-19
Source: Ministry of Commerce and Industries
Indian footwear market is expected to jump from $26 billion in 2022 to $90 billion by 2030
Share of non-leather footwear in India to increase from 25% to 75% by 20230
Growth will be driven by increase in non-leather footwear demand
Non-leather footwear to become $67.5 billion market by 2030
Source: Global Trade Research Initiative

TWO major shifts are happening in footwear sector. One, consumers globally are preferring non-leather footwear like slippers, sneakers, boots, sports shoes, running shoes and so on, and global brands are shifting or diversifying their supply chain out of China and Vietnam.

India's efforts to capture companies shifting bases out of China in electronics sector are gaining much attention, but footwear sector churn is not widely known.

Tamil Nadu is capitalising this trend with policy initiatives and creating a material ecosystem. It's unlike electronics where it faces severe competition from other states. Suppliers of brands like Nike, Crocs, Adidas, Puma and others are shifting their manufacturing facility to the state. Major Taiwanese contract manufacturers of global footwear companies have announced investments of more than ₹6,600 crore in recently concluded investor's meet.

Feng Tay, High Glory Footwear India, TKG Taekwong, Hong Fu and Singapore-based Zhong Bu are some of the companies that expressed interest in Tamil Nadu. Most of these manufacturing are joint ventures with Indian companies with technology licensing, and equity tie-ups. The state traditionally has a strong leather footwear sector with clusters in Ambur, Vaniyambadi, Ranipet, Vellore, Erode and Dindigul regions. It has 38% share in total footwear and leather output in the country, according to the state government data.

Florence Shoe Company has been involved in leather footwear for long and is now venturing into non-leather business. Aqeel Panaruna, Chairman of the company and Chairman of Indian Shoe Federation (ISF) said they're tapping the growth in the sector with a huge market and volume. He said apart from the China+1 strategy, relatively higher cost of production in China and Vietnam is also a factor in the shift.

He said the availability of large land banks with government entity SIPCOT helps industries to set up large factories instead of time consuming land acquisition is a differentiating factor. He added that Tamil Nadu's Footwear and Leather Production Policy released in 2022 is the reason behind major suppliers choosing the state. A report by Invest India states India has lower water, power cost and corporate tax than other two.

Supply chain, material ecosystem

Meanwhile, various Industry captains TNIE spoke to urged the importance of bringing the supply-chain and material ecosystem to the state, which is currently heavily dependent on China. "Unless you bring the material ecosystem, we can't fully benefit from this shift," Aqeel Panaruna said.

The industry needs many of components shoe sole, synthetic materials, fabrics, metal ornaments, buckles, lays etc. Import of these items push up cost of production. Industry argues for a production linked scheme (PLI) for footwear to speed up localisation. Indian players are partnering with Taiwanese players for technical know-how, saying there's no point in reinventing the wheel. But they have to do more to succeed in the long-term.

Tata International, part of the Tata group, manufactures and exports footwear for global brands like Clarks, H&M, Marks & Spencer and Zara. It has three manufacturing facilities in the state. Speaking to TNIE, PS Suresh, business head of Tata International Footwear division, said the global trend is shifting towards leisure wear from formals or combination of both. The changing expectations of GenZ of new designs, new experiences are shaping the industry's trajectory, he said. He stressed on the need for a domestic material ecosystem and establishing research and development, design centers to move up the value chain, adding it may happen in next 5- 10 years in India.

"Athleisure, which includes sports and casual wear like sneakers, is growing significantly. Indian companies should understand the technical aspects of the manufacturing process and the design and fashion trends and assess the consumer choices to create products," Suresh said.

TN govt push

The state government is setting up a non-leather footwear park at Ranipet district on Chennai-Bengaluru highway, which includes bringing manufacturers and component suppliers to a single location with common facilities.

Rafiq Ahmed, MD, Kothari Industrial Corporation, said the company would establish a mega plug and play manufacturing complex for footwear components by the end of 2025. "This would enable Indian companies to avoid logistical delays from China and consequent order delays. There is a general perception that Indian companies don't deliver on time but that's not because we're lethargic. This would help us deliver on committed deadline to the global brands,"

The company has opened a shoe manufacturing facility for US brand Crocs in a joint venture and plans to open 30 plug and play component facilities around that. Total investments of the company is ₹2,500 crores and Rafiq Ahmed said it could go up significantly.

NEWSCOPE

BYJU'S WOES, NEW WAVE OF LAYOFFS SIGNAL LONG WINTER FOR START-UPS

GURBIR SINGH

A new wave of lay-offs at ecommerce platforms, and the crashing world of Byju's has brought forth starkly the shriveling up of funding for start-ups. There are many who have grown as a bubble, who now stand exposed having got their core business plans wrong.

The signs were there, but it's now all happening. Swiggy confirmed it is laying off 400 employees or about 7% of its 6,000 workforce. The company is going in for an IPO later this year, and it appears it is cleaning up.

This is the digital delivery company's second layoff – last year around the same time it shed 380 workmen. Flipkart too said it was letting go 1,000 employees – about 5% of its 22,000-strong workforce. It's strange that local boss Kalyan Krishnamurthy said it was a routine, annual cutback,and claimed things were hunkydory at the company.

Byju's, that sinking feeling

Meanwhile, the one-time darling of edtech investors, Byju's, seems to be in its last gasp as lenders filed an insolvency petition against holding company Alpha following a payment default on a $1.2 billion loan.

The company, founded by Byju Raveendran, at one point hit a valuation of $22 billion as its core business – providing online education – thrived in the work-from-home environment of the pandemic. More than a dozen investors from Peak XV Partners to Lightspeed, UBS and Chan Zuckerberg Initiative, thronged to grab a piece of the pie, as Byju's built strong brand value through acquisitions and a marketing blitz that included becoming India's cricket team's principal sponsor.

But as lockdown conditions opened up after Covid-19 abated, demand for its services also abated. Unable toprovide cash flow for its myriad operations, the company struggled to even file its financial report. It was only a few days ago, Byju's filed its FY2022 financials with the Ministry of Corporate Affairs (MCA) on January 23, almost 22 months after the reporting period ended.

Though its revenue had more than doubled 118% to Rs 5,298 crore in Fy2023 from ₹2,428 crore in the previous year, its losses ballooned to ₹8,245 crore from ₹4,564 crore in FY2021.

Blackrock, US based asset manager, which holds a minority stake in Byju's, slashed the company's valuation to $1 billion in October last, a 95% fall from its peak valuation of $22 billion. Currently, the firm's own valuation is not too much off this mark as it seeks to raise $100 million from existing investors through an issue of fresh shares valuing the company at just about $2 billion.

SOURAV ROY

In recent weeks the company's promoters were scrapping the bottom of the barrel funding employees' payroll by pledging the homes of Raveendran and his family. While investors have little recourse to recover their money, lenders are all set to take Byju's to the cleaners via the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code.

Both investors and creditors too have to be blamed for this mess. Byju's arrived on the scene in a blaze as an innovative, online learning model where tutors used out-of-the-box illustrative techniques like a pizza or slices of cakes to solve mathematical riddles. Over 2020 and 2021 the company raised over $5 billion in equity and debt from starry-eyed investors, some of whom valued Byju's at $40 billion for an IPO which never happened.

Byju's splurged $1.5 billion in acquisitions, many of which have only deepened its losses. Was there any due diligence? Did none of these investors realize the pandemic conditions would abate changing the conditions for online education?

Things are on a free fall. Creditors have taken hold of the company's subsidiary in Singapore; other lenders have told a court in Delaware, US that Byju's had slyly parked $533 million in an obscure hedge fund. With mounting losses, and with few options to raise money, it is unlikely Byju's can make a comeback.

Tough conditions

As conflict and war roils the world's economy and recessionary conditions loom large, the start-up ecosystem is facing a long winter freeze. Data collected by market intelligence platform PrivateCircle Research revealed startup funding in India fell over 62% cent in 2023 to about ₹67,000 crore as compared to ₹1,80,000 crore in 2022. This is the lowest level since 2018 when Indian startups raised ₹1,00,930 crore. The fall seems even higher considering the peak achieved in 2021 was over ₹2,40,000 crore.

Anecdotal reports from Pune, a base for many startups, indicate that with easy access to capital drying up, early-stage startups are feeling the pain with the gestation period-the time taken to begin producing results, doubling to almost 24 months.

A global summit in November last, organized by The Indus Entrepreneurs (TiE), a non-profit working to nurture start-ups, heard optimistic voices predicting a turnaround after March this year; but it also said it was the end to easy investments, and outrageous valuations. However, with the intensity of global conflict increasing with the Gaza conflict spilling over to the rest of West Asia, the tight money flow is likely to continue for much longer.

The upside is start-up launches will be with better homework, while investors and lenders will do their due diligence as they become more choosy.

Macrotech Q3 profit rises 25% to ₹505 crore

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

REAL estate company Macrotech Developers on Saturday reported a 25% increase in its consolidated net profit to ₹505 crore in the December quarter.

The developer said it could raise up to ₹5,000 crore, if needed, for expansion. The Mumbai-based company has a major presence in Mumbai Metropolitan Region and Pune. It markets its properties under Lodha brand. Its net profit stood at ₹405 crore in the year-ago period. The company's total income jumped to ₹2,958.7 crore in the October-December period of financial year 2023-24 from ₹1,902.4 crore in the corresponding period of the previous year, according to a regulatory filing.

The board approved an enabling proposal to raise up to ₹5,000 crore by issuing securities via public issues, private placement or any other mode in one or two tranches. In the first nine months of FY24, pre-sales booking stood at ₹10,300 crore.

Yes Bank net profit jumps 350% on lower provisions

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE net profit of private sector lender Yes Bank soared 350% year-on-year in the third quarter of the current financial year to ₹231 crore on the back of lower provisions and robust non-interest income. On a quarter-on-quarter basis, the net profit of the bank increased by 2.8%.

The bank's net interest income increased by 2.3% year-on-year and 4.8% quarter-on-quarter to ₹2,017 crore. Non-interest income went up by 12% year-on-year during the quarter. The lender's net interest margin for the third quarter increased 10 basis points at 2.4%.

The bank's provision costs (non-tax) at ₹555 crore were down 34.3% in in the third quarter of the current financial year compared to ₹844 crore in the same period previous year.

Gross non-performing assets of the Mumbai-headquartered bank remained flat at 2%, while net non-performing assets declined by 10 basis points to 0.9% during the third quarter.

Gross slippages of the lender for the quarter were at ₹1,233 crore compared to ₹1,610 crore in the year-ago period and ₹1,199 crore in the previous quarter. Slippages net of recoveries and upgrades were at ₹574 crore as against ₹543 crore in the previous quarter. The loan book of the bank grew by 11.8% year-on-year to ₹2.18 lakh crore. It sanctioned ₹28,498 crore in new loans during the quarter, of which retail loans were ₹9,769 crore, SME loans were ₹8,265 crore and mid-corporate loans accounted for ₹1,108 crore.

The bank reported a 13.2% growth in deposits at ₹2.42 lakh crore. Current Account and Savings Account (CASA) ratio at the end of December quarter was 29.7% compared to 29.9% in Q3 FY23 and 29.4% Q-o-Q. According to the bank, 3.98 lakh new CASA accounts opened in the third quarter.

Yes Bank's capital adequacy ratio fell from 18.2% a year ago to 16.3% in Q3 of the current financial year.

Commenting on the third quarter results, the bank's MD and CEO Prashant Kumar, said: "Q3FY24 overall was a good quarter for us with deposit growth outpacing advances growth, sequential improvement in CASA ratio and Net Interest Margins. We continued to maintain a healthy Liquidity Coverage Ratio (LCR) ratio. The value of Net NPA and net carrying value of Security Receipts (SR) reduced by 30 bps point and our profits saw a 3.5x fold increase compared to Q3FY23."

Need collaborative efforts to be $5 tn economy: FM

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

FINANCE Minister Nirmala Sitharaman on Saturday said every partner needs to collaborate to help India's GDP surpass $5 trillion by 2027-28.

The initiatives of Customs department like Faceless Assessment and Single Window Clearance need to evolve with the overall objective of growth of trade. In a written message on the occasion of 'International Customs Day 2024', the minister said with a common purpose of ease of doing business for nation building during India's 'Amrit Kaal', all the stakeholders need to come together and contribute for benefits to citizen of India.

Sitharaman said theme of International Customs Day which this year is "Customs Engaging Traditional and New Partners with Purpose" resonates with the Motto of 'Sabka Saath Sabka Vikas' given by Prime Minister Narendra Modi. "Every partner needs to collaborate to put India on course to becoming the third-largest economy by 2027-28, with a GDP surpassing $5 trillion," she said.

> **Every partner needs to collaborate to put India on course to becoming the third-largest economy by the year 2027-28, with a gross domestic product (GDP) surpassing the $5 trillion mark**
>
> Nirmala Sitharaman, finance minister

Many initiatives taken by Customs such as Faceless Assessment, Direct Port Delivery, Single Window Clearance, AEO Scheme need to evolve with overall objective of growth of trade and business, she added. Special focus on MSMEs, new startups and inclusivity will align with the vision of the prime minister, Sitharaman added.

Meanwhile in a separate event in Nasik, Union minister BL Verma said the Centre will provide all help for the development of the cooperative sector in Maharashtra.

The Minister of State in the Ministry of Co-operation said the Narendra Modi government had created a separate ministry for cooperation, which was ensuring all stakeholders were getting support and solutions were being found for problems facing the sector.

Karnataka Bank to raise ₹700 cr additional equity capital

ENS ECONOMIC BUREAU @New Delhi

THE Board of Directors of Karnataka Banks on Saturday approved raising of ₹700 crore additional equity capital.

Of the ₹700 crore, an amount up to ₹100 crore would be raised through preferential issue of shares and ₹600 crore through private placement(s) and qualified institutions placement(s).

The board has approved the issuance of up to 37.72 lakh equity shares of face value of ₹10 to ICICI Lombard General Insurance Company at a price of ₹265.06 per equity share, amounting to an aggregate of up to ₹100 crore on a preferential basis. The board also approved to issue, offer and allot equity shares of face value of ₹10 each fully paid-up, to permitted investors amounting to an aggregate of up to ₹600 crore through private placement(s), qualified institutions placement(s) and/or any combination thereof or any other method as may be permitted under applicable laws.

The board of the bank, in its meeting held on 22 September 2023 had approved raising equity capital up to an amount of ₹1,500 crore through issue of equity shares by way of qualified institutional placement, preferential issue, rights issue, or any other permissible mode of capital issue.

Business & Beyond

Observation of Birth Anniversary of Netaji

The 127th birth anniversary of the legendary freedom fighter, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose was commemorated in a befitting manner at DVC Headquarters Today. Floral tributes were paid in loving remembrance of the patriotic son and great national leader, Bose by the Chairman, DVC: Shri S. Suresh Kumar, IAS, the Member (Technical): Shri M. Raghu Ram, the Chief Vigilance Officer, Shri S. L. Bhalotia, the Member (Finance): Shri Arup Sarkar, the Member- Secretary: Dr. John Mathai, Executive Directors and senior executives of DVC HQ.

JSP Foundation housing assistance to 449 families

Continuing its transformative initiative to improve the Human Development Index (HDI) in the community, JSP Foundation extended housing assistance to 449 underprivileged families from 11 states under its unique programme, Aashiana. The chairperson of JSP Foundation, Smt. Shallu Jindal, launched the second edition of the programme on January 20, 20224, and handed over the confirmation letter for financial assistance to the selected families. Addressing the programme, Smt. Jindal said, "We firmly believe that everyone deserves the security of a Home, and we take pride that out of the housing assistance provided in the past, 521 families have constructed their dream home with the financial support in first phase our Aashiana programme. I am happy to know that an additional 449 families will get financial support in the second edition of the programme.

Defender Ekka retires from international hockey

India defender Deep Grace Ekka, 29, has announced her retirement from international hockey. She was part of the team that finished 4th in Tokyo 2020. "The journey from 2011 to 2023 has been the highlight of my life, and I am deeply honoured to have represented India at the pinnacle of the sport," she said in a social media post.

Rod Laver Aryna and the Queen

AGENCIES @ Melbourne

ARYNA Sabalenka said the Australian Open will always be her "special place" after blowing China's Zheng Qinwen off court on Saturday to become the first woman to defend her title in more than a decade.

The Belarusian world number two proved too strong for the 12th seed, administering a 6-3, 6-2 drubbing in 76 minutes to claim her second Grand Slam crown on Rod Laver Arena. It capped an incredible display of power and poise from Sabalenka over the past fortnight, with the 25-year-old surging to the title without losing a set through her seven matches. The last time the tournament witnessed a successful women's title defence was in 2013, when fellow Belarusian Victoria Azarenka achieved the feat. "Like every player, you want to win them all (Slams), but Australia will definitely always be my special place and it's going to be in my memory for the rest of my life," she said. "I think the first (title) is always special because it is so emotional when you win for the first time, second time it's just such a relief. "I've been under a little pressure these two weeks and I'm super happy I was able to handle it and compete at such a high level."

With her latest exploits, Sabalenka cemented her reputation as one of the game's most consistent contenders at Grand Slams, reaching at least the semi-finals in her past six majors, making three finals and winning twice. She had words of encouragement for Zheng, who was in her first major final. "I know this feeling -- it is tough to lose in a final but you are such an incredible player, such a young girl. You are going to be in many more finals and you are going to get it," she said.

She overwhelmed Zheng with her crushing groundstrokes deep into both corners. Zheng had reached her first Grand Slam final without meeting a seed after a host of players crashed out early on her side of the draw, and the gulf in class was exposed. "It's my first final and I'm feeling a little bit of pity," said Zheng.

Fitting Finale

Sunday's final on Rod Laver Arena brings together two of the most consistent players on Tour. Since the beginning of the 2023 season, Daniil Medvedev and Jannik Sinner have won more matches than anybody else. Although the Italian has won the past three meetings, including at the ATP Finals in November, one thing Medvedev does have in his locker is experience as he prepares for a sixth final in the majors.

6-3 Medvedev leads the Italian Sinner 6-3 in the head-to-head battles.

● DANIIL MEDVEDEV VS JANNIK SINNER- MEN'S SINGLES FINAL

LIVE ON SONY SPORTS NETWORK FROM 2 PM

Bopanna becomes oldest man to win Grand Slam title

India's Rohan Bopanna celebrated becoming the oldest number one in men's doubles history by winning the Australian Open with his partner Matthew Ebden on Saturday. The second seeds claimed a 7-6 (7/0), 7-5 victory over unseeded Italian pair Simone Bolelli and Andrea Vavassori on Rod Laver Arena.

It was their maiden title as a team and Bopanna's first in men's doubles after 60 previous Grand Slams — a record for most attempts before winning. The 43-year-old will become the oldest number one in men's doubles history when the new rankings are released next week. Bopanna's only previous Grand Slam win was at the 2017 French Open in mixed doubles, with Canada's Gabriela Dabrowski. It was Ebden's second men's doubles title after winning Wimbledon in 2022 with fellow Australian Max Purcell.

The 26-year-old stepped up with splendid century as the visitors secured a 126-run lead on Day 3

ONCE UPON A TON IN T-OLLIEWOOD

England's Ollie Pope celebrates his century on Saturday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Hyderabad

ONE of the more thrilling aspects about watching Test cricket in India is experiencing an R Ashwin or Ravindra Jadeja spell. On a strip with some turn and a degree of variable bounce, they become more potent. On the third morning of the first Test against England, Ashwin had the new ball with 190 runs to play with. Gulp.

On Days One and Two, the English spinners had toiled and grafted on a surface that seldom responded to their silent cries. When Ashwin had it, one may have already imagined the outcomes. Pace. Dip. Spin. Variation. All edges in play. Lots of close in fielders. The ooohhhs and aaahhhs of the 15000 or so who had occupied their seats early doors. Except, none of that happened on Saturday.

A fever dream unfolded as Bazball took centre-stage on one of the most competitive days of long-form cricket on these shores for many years. Reverse sweeps bisected the man at short third man frequently. It left the fielder at point boundary to hurl the ball back in from beyond the boundary cushions. Close in fielders went out of fashion. A pacer replaced a spinner multiple times. Several Hail Maries were sent but Ollie Pope was the only one answering prayers. Rohit Sharma kicked the turf several times as frustration, anger and irritation set in. By the end, Jadeja had conceded over 100 runs at 3.8 runs per over. Ashwin and Axar Patel had gone at over four. The three had conceded a combined 262 runs for four wickets in 62 overs.

As the floodlights took effect, the tourists found themselves 126 runs ahead with four wickets remaining. "These things happen," was the gist of what Paras Mhambrey, bowling coach, said after the day's play. But these things do not happen against Indian spinners in these conditions. It's only the second time a visiting team has managed to score 200 in a completed third or fourth innings in the Covid years. It's the first time in 21 Tests that a visiting team has hit 200 in both innings. No team since the same opposition in Nagpur in 2012 (completed innings) has managed to cross 300 in the third or the fourth innings.

The main reason for that was Pope whose unbeaten 148 breathed fresh oxygen into their innings following Bumrah's folklore-entering double-wicket spell. Now, the No. 3 has long been thought about as the next Root. But it hasn't always happened for the Ian Bell look-alike. More so in India. When he walked in, he had compiled 154 from 354 balls at an average of 15. As he walked back at stumps, he was unbeaten on 148 off 208, and England 316/6 with a 126-run lead.

He had uprooted the existing food chain; the hunted had become the hunter. He started using his feet, trusted his hands as he went down on one knee to play the reverse and cut all three spinners. Sure, he had some luck — you always need it to survive world-class bowling — but he used it to maximum effect. So it wasn't a surprise to hear Joe Root describe it in the most glowing terms. "I'm speechless," he said in the post-day press conference. "It's one of the best knocks that I have seen.

SCOREBOARD

England 1st Innings: 246; India 1st Innings (O/N 421/7): Jadeja lbw b Root 87, Patel b Rehan 44, Bumrah b Root 0, Siraj n.o 0; **Extras:** (B-5, LB-6, NB-2, W-2) 15, **Total:** (All out in 121 ovs) 436; **FoW:** 8-436, 9-436; **Bowling:** Wood 17-1-47-0, Hartley 25-0-131-2, Leach 26-6-63-1, Rehan 24-4-105-2, Root 29-5-79-4; **England 2nd innings:** Crawley c Sharma b Ashwin 31, Duckett b Bumrah 47, Pope (batting) 148, Root lbw b Bumrah 2, Bairstow b Jadeja 10, Stokes b Ashwin 6, Foakes b Patel 34, Rehan (batting) 16; **Extras:** (B-10, LB-6, NB-6) 22; **Total:** (For 6 wkts in 77 ovs) 316; **FoW:** 1-45, 2-113, 3-117, 4-140, 5-163, 6-275; **Bowling:** Bumrah 12-3-29-2, Ashwin 21-3-93-2, Axar 15-2-69-1, Jadeja 26-1-101-1, Siraj 3-0-8-0.

"... to manipulate the field as he did against that attack, on that surface, to show the powers of concentration, determination, fitness and skill, all combined was immense." Out of all the shots he essayed, perhaps one of the most outrageous was a reverse dilscoop.

However, he wasn't gambling on blind faith alone. Yes, he had bought a seat at the roulette table but there was a method behind his calculations. Root, one of the best players of the conventional sweep, opined that the reverse sweep was perhaps a safer shot than the forward defence on strips like these (both Zak Crawley and Ben Stokes were dismissed when they were playing the forward defense). "It can be if you can play it well," Root said. "It's hardest when some spin and some don't. When it's consistent spin, you can work out when to take it on, and which balls from which line you can take a risk on. The most important thing is you don't think you are going to miss it at all. Have that mindset of committing to the shot and nailing it for four or one or whatever. He did it exceptionally well. It took until 110 to make a small error when he got dropped (Axar put him down)."

Pope & Co. were so successful at it they set a new record (most runs playing it in a single Test according to Cricviz). Irrespective of whatever happens on Sunday — a point Root made — Bazball has silenced critics. Many people thought that against Ashwin and Jadeja, it would have no chance; not even a wing and a prayer

Not anymore.

Brains, belligerence & bewitchment — the Bumrah package

SWAROOP SWAMINATHAN @ Hyderabad

WATCHING Jasprit Bumrah should come with its own subscription fees and GST. During an incendiary period of play on Saturday, the pacer conjured magic to produce a spell bowling Gods would have approved of. In the process, he smashed through England's spine.

It would be no exaggeration to say that if it wasn't for Bumrah's intervention, the tourists might have run away with their innings. The Bazballers were rollicking along at 113/1 off 18.4 overs, just 77 behind. Needing a wicket, Rohit Sharma turned to his SOS man just after lunch. He would have gotten his rewards sooner had Rohit decided to review a close leg-before appeal. As soon as hawk-eye showed that the delivery was smashing into leg-stump, a visibly peeved Bumrah hit both his hands on the ground. With runs coming in clumps, the hosts were a touch rattled. They had dismissed Zak Crawley but Ben Duckett had handled both R Ashwin and Ravindra Jadeja by employing a variety of sweeps.

If the missed DRS peeved him off his next delivery, he saw a mis-field go for a boundary. Peeved Bumrah had become pissed-off Bumrah. Three balls later, Duckett shaped to pull a short delivery. Instead, it kissed his gloves and raced along for another four. The thing with Bazball is all conventional tropes go out the window. So what if the batter has just hit two boundaries? Keep going. Bad idea. Bumrah, playing just his fifth match at home, was already getting the ball to tail. He got one to pitch on length and come in, the shiny side pointing towards leg slip. The southpaw Duckett went for an expansive cover drive but his bat wasn't even in the same postcode. The off stump performed a couple of cartwheels before landing next to the keeper. Bumrah's reaction said it all. His veins were in danger of popping out as the fielders converged from all sides. 25,000 people joined in with Bumrah & Co. to send off Duckett as the atmosphere ratcheted up several notches. It was a physical manifestation of Martin Scorcese's 'this is cinema' meme and Bumrah had elevated it to high art just as the sun was beginning to beat down on a slow strip. More than 60,000 had walked through the turnstiles of the Rajiv Gandhi Stadium in the first three days but at no period of play were the hoi polloi this clued in. Every Bumrah ball was an event. Nobody dared to blink. Breathing could be paused for a few seconds. A genius was at work and it needed their undivided attention.

Jasprit Bumrah took two wickets on Saturday | SRI LOGANATHAN VELMURUGAN

That's the thing with Bumrah. He's so good he eliminates the conditions. You need special skills to hurry batters on a slow surface, let alone a future Hall-Of-Famer like Joe Root but he was doing just that. To say Root is a key wicket is a bit like saying water is wet. But because he's a prodigious sweeper, spinners can quickly lose their line against him. He's also one of the better players of spin in this line-up. The hosts knew if they could remove him during this stage of play, they would control the future of the Test.

With the ball showing signs of reverse, Rohit signalled for Mohammed Siraj; pace at both ends. But all the drama was reserved from the end opposite to the Mohammed Azharuddin Stand. The first ball off the 21st over, Bumrah found the same inward movement but Root got an inside edge for a single. Off the fourth ball, Ollie Pope did well to jam his bat down on a yorker with some tail. That unique slower ball of his followed and a misjudged Pope stroke just evaded cover. A moment later, Bumrah had Root.

It was another length ball with the shiny side facing leg-slip. The movement beat Root's defences on the inside (umpire's call on DRS). He continued for two more overs hoping for one more wicket but his job had already been done for the game.

For the masses — paying public, police, admin staff, scribes and 30 or so compatriots and counterparts — a sacred experience had finished. One of the world's best had taken all of them on an otherworldly adventure.

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Khelo India Games: Two meet records in lifting

EXPRESS NEWS SERVICE @ Chennai

THE weightlifting at the JN Indoor Stadium arena was once again abuzz with records. The AC temporary structure had quite a sprinkling of weekend crowd as the lifters went about their chores. Lifters from Maharashtra and Andhra Pradesh, two of the dominant teams in the sport, created a couple of national youth records at the Khelo India Youth Games on Saturday. Arati Tatgunti (Maha) and A V Susmita (AP) set new National Youth Records to clinch the gold medals in the girls 49 kg and 55kg categories respectively.

As expected, wrestlers from Haryana simply ran away with medals from the wrestling arena. They bagged four of the five gold on offer in wrestling to close in on second-placed Tamil Nadu on Saturday. Monika (girls 46kg), Neha (girls 57kg), Amarjeet (boys 51kg Greco Roman) and Vinay (boys 92kg freestyle) clinched the gold medals with comfortable victories on their respective opponents and their girls' hockey team bagged their fifth consecutive title with a 1-0 over Madhya Pradesh. Maharashtra continued to stay on top of the medals table adding four more gold. Lifter Mahadev Vadar (boys 67kg), wrestler Samarth (boys 60kg GR) and swimmer Rutuja Rajadnya added a gold medal each to stay atop. Rajadnya became the fastest girls swimmer at the SDAT Aquatic complex by winning the 50m freestyle race with a timing of 29.18 sec. West Bengal and Telangana added a gold medal each to their tally from the Guru Nanak College shooting range. Tamil Nadu boys team beat Andhra Pradesh in a five-set thriller in volleyball. In hockey, the gold in boys went to Odisha who beat Madhya Pradesh 4-0, while in the girls' Haryana won the gold beating Madhya Pradesh 1-0.

(LEFT) Tamil Nadu beat Andhra Pradesh to enter boys volleyball final; Odisha boys won hockey gold | P RAVIKUMAR/ MARTIN LOUIS

JYOSHNA'S JOURNEY

From a remote village in Odisha to breaking nat'l record, the journey of lifter Jyoshna

Full story: newindianexpress.com

Results

Cycling: Girls: 60km Individual: Alanis Lilly Cubeleo (Ker) 01:57:04.640, Santoshi Oraon (Jha) 01:57:04.950, J Srimathi (TN) 02:09:57.930; **Hockey:** Girls: (Gold Medal): Haryana bt Madhya Pradesh 1-0, (Bronze Medal): Odisha bt Mizoram 4-3; Boys: (Gold Medal): Odisha bt Madhya Pradesh 4-0; (Bronze Medal): Haryana bt Jharkhand 5-1; **Kalaraippayattu:** Girls: Long Staff Fight: (Gold) Anugraha/Durga (Ker); (Silver) Sreelakshmi KG/Ayana KK (Ker); (Bronze) Samiksha Begam/Jigyasa Amfi (Asm), Vidhya Lakshmi MM/Vaigha Lakshmi JS (Ker); **Shooting:** Boys: 10m Air Rifle: Ashmit Chatterjee (WB) 250.9; Himanshu (Har) 250.6; Manvendra Singh Shekhawat (Raj) 227.6; 25m Rapid Fire: K Tanishq Muralidhar Naidu (Tel) 19; Mukesh Nilavalli (AP) 18; Swaraj Bhondave (Mah) 16; **Swimming:** Girls: 200m freestyle: Vritti Agarwal (Tel) 2:11.22; Aditi Hegde (Mah) 2:12.30; Sri Charani Tumu (Kar) 2:13.61; 100m breaststroke: Venika Parikh (Guj) 1:14.04s; Pahi Borah (Asm) 1:15.80; M U Joyshree (TN) 1:16.26; **Volleyball** (semi-finals): Girls: West Bengal bt Gujarat 25-11, 30-28, 25-19; Rajashtan bt Tamil Nadu 13-25, 25-20, 25-20, 25-18; Boys: Haryana bt Uttar Pradesh 25-22, 25-17, 25-18; Tamil Nadu bt bt Andhra Pradesh 18-25, 25-22, 23-25, 25-23, 15-11; **Weightlifting:** Girls: 49kg: Arati Tatgunti (Mah) 170kg, Panchami Sonowal (Asm) 167, Bronze – Soumya Dalvi (Mah) 165; 55kg: V Susmitha (AP) 173, Mina Santa (Odi) 171, Kanika Shree VR (TN) 168; Boys: 61kg: Sadananda Bariha (Odi) 242 kg, Anush Lokhande (Mah) 237 kg, Riki Gogoi (Asm) 235 kg; 67kg: Mahadev Vadar (Mah) 253, P Akash (TN) 242, Deepak Kumar Pradhan (Odi) 242; 73kg: NV Mahesh (AP) 265, VM Vasantha Kumar (TN) 246, Aayush Rana (UP) 245; **Wrestling:** Girls: 46 kg: (Gold) Monika (Har), (Silver) Aditi Kumari (Del), (Bronze) Komal Verma (Raj), Rutuja Gurav (Kar); 57 kg: (Gold) Neha (Har), (Silver) Neetu (Har), (Bronze) Sonam Jat (Raj), Divya Phalswal (Del); Boys: 51kg GR: (Gold) Amarjeet (Har), (Silver) Jahir Rajak (Bih), (Bronze) Aditya Tate (Mah), Aakash (Del); 60kg GR: (Gold) Samarth (Mah), (Silver) Abhishek Nishad (Chd), (Bronze) Sonu (Har), Sourab (Har); 92kg FS: (Gold) Vinay (Har); (Silver) Abhishek Mann (Del); (Bronze) Vansh Panwar (UP), Saurabh Jadhav (Mah).

EXPRESS READ

Gukesh drop to 2nd

WIJK AAN ZEE: GM D Gukesh dropped to second spot with seven spots after drawing with Alireza Firouza of France as Nodirbek Abdusattarov of Uzbekistan snatched the lead going into the penultimate round of Tata Steel Masters.

Rhythm, Ujjwal win

CAIRO: India picked up their first gold medal of the ISSF World Cup on Saturday when Rhytham Sangwan and Ujjwal combined to defeat the Armenian pair of Elmira Karapetyan and Benik Khlghatyan 17-7 in the 10m air pistol mixed team event.

India 'A' beat Eng Lions

AHMEDABAD: A fine all-round performance powered India 'A' to an innings and 16-run win over England Lions. The win also helped the hosts take an unassailable 1-0 lead in the three-match series as hosts dismissed England Lions for 321.

Jagadeesan smashes triple century

AGENCIES

NARAYAN Jagadeesan followed up his double ton in the previous game with a magnificent triple century to help Tamil Nadu declare their first innings at a massive 610 for 4 on the second day of their Ranji Trophy Group C match against Chandigarh here Saturday.

The 28-year-old Jagadeesan struck 321 off 403 balls with the help of 23 fours and five sixes after beginning the day on 108 as TN took complete control of the match. Two other batters, Pradosh Ranjan Paul (105) and Baba Indrajith (123) also hit centuries as TN took a massive 499 first innings lead. Chandigarh were bowled out for 111 in 47 overs. TN had made 221 for 1 in 41 overs on first day. They added 389 runs and declared at 610 for 4 in 126.1 overs to shut the door on Chandigarh.

Chandigarh were 1 for no loss in two overs. They were trailing by 498 runs with two days remaining.

At Patna, hosts Bihar were bolstered by Sakibul Gani's 120 not out (199 balls, 13 fours, 2 sixes) and fifties from Piyush Singh (51) and Bipin Saurabh (60). Bihar were ahead by 43 runs against Kerala. Bihar reached 270/5 in reply to Kerala's 227.

Hanuma Vihari missed a double century as he was dismissed for 183, with his knock pushing Andhra to a huge first-innings score of 431 against Chhattisgarh despite a fine 7/75 from Ravi Kiran. In their reply, Chhattisgarh reached 118/3 when stumps were drawn as they trailed by another 313 runs in the first innings.

SELECT RESULTS

Chandigarh 111 & 1/0 in 2 ovs vs Tamil Nadu 610/4 in 126.1 (Jagadeesan 321, Pradosh 105, Indrajith 123); MP 238 & 49/2 in 23 ovs vs Pondicherry 100 in 55.4 ovs (Saransh Jain 5/22, Kumar Kartikeya Singh 4/22); Delhi 147 & 145/8 in 33 ovs (Himmat Singh 109 batting, Lakshay 36 batting; D Dhapola 4/43) vs Uttarakhand 239 in 69.1 ovs (Tare 83; Navdeep Saini 4/57, Shokeen 3/57); Andhra 431 in 122.5 ovs (Vihari 183, Ricky 120) vs Chhattisgarh 118/3 in 42 ovs; Odisha 138 & 157/3 in 44 ovs (Pattanaik 78 batting, Poddar 41) vs Himachal Pradesh 176 in 62.4 ovs (Biplab Samantaray 3/30, Rajesh Mohanty 3/56); Kerala 227 in 74.3 ovs (Gopal 137; Himanshu 4/63) vs Bihar 270/5 in 73 ovs (Gani batting 120); Karnataka 241 in 78.4 ovs (Mayank 51, Kishan 62, Vyshank 50) vs Tripura 198/9 in 79 ovs (Debnath 57; Koushik V 4/34).

NINE

suspected Muslim militants, including two involved in Sunday Mass bombing, killed by Philippine troops

GLOBAL WEATHER

LR: Light Rain • HR: Heavy Rain • TDS: Thundershower • LC: Light Cloud • SNY: Sunny

Beijing	29	16	SNY	Los Angeles	26	17	LC
Colombo	29	24	LC	Melbourne	25	12	HR
Dhaka	32	27	SNY	Moscow	21	8	HR
Dubai	39	31	SNY	New York	26	16	LC
Houston	31	23	SNY	Singapore	32	27	SNY
Istanbul	29	17	SNY	Toronto	19	11	LC
London	24	13	LC	Washington	27	14	SNY

ASIA MATTERS

MAN JAILED FOR MOLESTING HOUSE HELPER

An Indian-origin man was sentenced to 10 months in jail after he pleaded guilty of using criminal force to outrage the modesty of a woman and voluntarily causing hurt to another person with a dangerous weapon. Singaram Palianeapan, 61, followed a domestic worker into a lift where he molested the woman, keeping her trapped for 90 seconds. Around a month later, while he was out on bail, Singaram punched a man at a bicycle shop three times with a metal chain wrapped around his fist. Four other similar charges were taken into consideration during sentencing by the court

77 TEST POSITIVE FOR DRUGS

Seventy-seven people in Thailand tested positive for drugs during a raid in a pub. Interior Minister Anutin Charnvirakul led the raid that took place at 2.45 am on Saturday at Tag Pub in Krathum Baen adjacent to Bangkok. Over 30 officials from Department of Provincial Administration, and narcotics suppression officers took part

PLEA MAY CUT TIME FOR TWO LINKED IN BLAST

A military panel at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, recommended 23 years in detention for two Malaysian men in connection with 2002 bombings in Bali, a spokesman for military commission said. However, under previously secret provision of plea agreement disclosed after panel's recommendation Friday, and a separate sentence reduction on Friday by the presiding judge, both men may face a far shorter sentence: about five years. Mohammed Farik Bin Amin and Mohammed Nazir Bin Lep already have spent 17 years awaiting trial at Guantanamo

TALKS TIME

Biden, Scholz to meet as US, EU aid for Ukraine hangs in balance

WASHINGTON

PRESIDENT Joe Biden will host German Chancellor Olaf Scholz at the White House on February 9 as the West struggles to provide new aid for Ukraine.

"The two leaders will reaffirm their resolute support for Ukraine's defence of its land and its people against Russia's war of aggression," the White House said on Saturday.

The Israel-Hamas war will also be a focus. The leaders will discuss "efforts to prevent regional escalation in the Middle East, their steadfast support for Israel's right to self-defence, and the imperative of increasing life-saving assistance and protection of civilians from harm in Gaza," as per the statement from White House press secretary Karine Jean-Pierre.

The Biden administration already has sent Ukraine $111 billion in weapons, equipment, humanitarian assistance and other aid since Vladimir Putin launched his invasion.

Biden's package of $110 billion in new aid for Ukraine, Israel and other national security needs has stalled because of disagreements between Congress and the White House over other policy priorities, including additional security for the US-Mexico border. That total includes about $61 billion in assistance for Ukraine. *AP*

Israel vows to stop UN's work in Gaza after war

UK, Canada, Australia and Italy follow US, suspend aid for UNRWA

JERUSALEM

ISRAEL vowed on Saturday to stop the UN agency at the heart of humanitarian efforts in Gaza from operating after the war following the sacking of staff over accusations they were involved in the October 7 attack.

The United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA), said on Friday it had fired several staff over Israel's accusations, promising a thorough investigation into the claims, which were not specified.

"UNRWA will not be a part of the day after," Israeli Foreign Minister Israel Katz said on X, adding that he was trying to gather support from the US, European Union and other major donors to the agency.

Donors including Australia, Canada and Italy have followed the lead of the United States, which said on Friday it had suspended additional funding to the agency over accusations.

The UK on Saturday also said it would be "temporarily pausing any future funding" to the UN agency for Palestinian refugees. "The UK is appalled by allegations that UNRWA staff were involved in the 7 October attack against Israel," the Foreign Office said, adding that the aid would be put on hold while "we review these concerning allegations."

Palestinians collect their belongings from their damaged house after an Israeli airstrike in Rafah, southern Gaza Strip on Saturday | AP

AIRSTRIKE KILLS THREE PALESTINIANS

Two women and a man were killed early Saturday in what witnesses said was an Israeli airstrike on a home in the southernmost part of Gaza. Bilal al-Siksik, who lost his wife, a son and a daughter in Saturday's strike in Rafah, a town on Gaza's border with Egypt, said in a statement the decision by the world court meant little since it did not stop the war.

Hamas on Saturday slammed Israeli "threats" against UNRWA, urging the United Nations and other international organisations not to "cave in to the threats and blackmail."

UNRWA had not reacted on Saturday to the announcement of the suspension of funds.

Johann Soufi, a lawyer and former director of UNRWA's legal office in Gaza, told *AFP* the agency had "always had a zero-tolerance policy for violence and incitement to hatred."

"Sanctioning UNRWA, which is barely keeping the entire population of Gaza alive, for the alleged responsibility of a few employees, is tantamount to collectively punishing the Gazan population, which is living in catastrophic humanitarian conditions," he said. *AFP*

Jury orders Donald Trump to pay an additional $83.3 mn to E. Jean Carroll

NEW YORK

A jury awarded $83.3 million to E. Jean Carroll on Friday in a stinging rebuke to former President Donald Trump for his continued social media attacks against the columnist over her claims that he sexually assaulted her in a department store.

The award, coupled with a $5 million sexual assault and defamation verdict last year from another jury in a case brought by Carroll, rose to $88.3 million what Trump must pay her. Protesting vigorously, he said he would appeal.

Carroll, 80, clutched her lawyers' hands and smiled as the seven-man, two-woman anonymous jury delivered its verdict. She issued a statement later saying, "This is a great victory for every woman who stands up when she's been knocked down, and a huge defeat for every bully who has tried to keep a woman down."

E. Jean Carroll | AP

In her closing argument Friday, Carroll attorney Roberta Kaplan requested $24 million in compensatory damages and "an unusually high punitive award." The jury awarded $18.3 million in compensatory damages and another $65 million in punitive damages—meant to deter future behaviour.

Trump had attended the trial earlier in the day, but stormed out of the courtroom during closing arguments by Carroll's attorney. He returned for his own attorney's closing argument and for a portion of the deliberations, but left the courthouse a half hour before the verdict was read.

"Absolutely ridiculous!" he said. "Our Legal System is out of control, and being used as a Political Weapon."

His attorney, Alina Habba, said the verdict resulted because Trump's opponents were suing "in states where they know they will get juries like this." "It will not deter us. We will keep fighting. And, I assure you, we didn't win today, but we will win," she said.

As for Trump's ability to pay, he reported having about $294 million in cash or cash equivalents on his most recent annual financial statement, for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2021. Testifying at his civil fraud trial last November, Trump boasted, "I have very little debt, and I have a lot of cash." *AP*

EXPRESS READ

French farmers vow to continue protest

Paris: French farmers vowed on Saturday to continue protesting, a day after government announced measures that they do not fully address their demands. The farmers' movement, seeking better remuneration for their produce, and protection against cheap imports has spread across.

March against gender violence in Kenya

Nairobi: Several hundred people marched in Nairobi on Saturday to protest against femicide in Kenya. The campaigners took to the streets of the capital holding placards that read "Being a woman should not be a death sentence," "Patriarchy kills" while others featured photographs of the victims.

No proof for Russia's claim on POWs: Kyiv

KYIV

OFFICIALS in Ukraine said Russia has provided no credible evidence to back its claims that their own forces shot down a military transport plane carrying Ukrainian prisoners of war (POW) who were to be swapped for Russian POWs.

The Ukrainian agency that deals with prisoner exchanges said late Friday that Russian officials had "with great delay" provided it with a list of the 65 Ukrainians who Moscow said had died in the Wednesday plane crash in Russia's Belgorod.

Ukraine's Coordination Staff for the Treatment of Prisoners of War said relatives of the named POWs were unable to identify their loved ones in crash site photos provided by Russian authorities. The agency's update cited Ukraine's military intelligence chief, Lt. Col. Kyrylo Budanov, as saying that Kyiv had no verifiable information about who was on the plane. "We currently don't have evidence that there could have been that many people onboard the aircraft. Russian propaganda's claim that the IL-76 aircraft was transporting 65 Ukrainian POWs (heading) for a prisoner swap continues to raise a lot of questions," Budanov said.

The Russian Defence Ministry said on Wednesday that missiles fired from across the border brought down the transport plane that it said was taking the POWs back to Ukraine. Local authorities in Belgorod said the crash killed all 74 people onboard, including six crew members and three Russian servicemen. Earlier Friday, Mykola Oleshchuk, Ukraine's air force commander, described Moscow's assertion as "rampant Russian propaganda." *AP*

WORLD'S LARGEST CRUISE SHIP BEGINS ITS MAIDEN VOYAGE

The world's largest cruise ship is set to begin its maiden voyage on Saturday as it gets underway from the Port of Miami

ICON OF THE SEAS

Royal Caribbean's Icon of the Seas, which runs nearly 365 metres from bow to stern, is roughly as long as the Empire State Building is high: 381 metres—not counting the spire and antenna

The Icon of the Seas is divided into eight neighbourhoods across 20 decks. The ship includes six waterslides, seven swimming pools, an ice skating rink, a theater and more than 40 restaurants, bars and lounges

The ship can carry up to 7,600 passengers at maximum capacity, along with 2,350 crew members

ECO-FRIENDLY

Icon of the Seas is the culmination of more than 50 years of dreaming, innovating and living our mission—to deliver the world's best vacation experiences responsibly. She is the ultimate multigenerational family vacation, forever changing the status quo in family travel and fulfilling vacation dreams for all ages onboard

The ship recovers over 93% of its fresh water through reverse osmosis

- Jason Liberty, Royal Caribbean Group President and CEO

SEVEN DAY VOYAGE

The ship, which is leaving South Florida for its first seven-day island-hopping voyage through the tropics, was officially christened on Tuesday with help from soccer legend Lionel Messi and his teammates

Pakistan seeks $2 billion loan from China

ISLAMABAD

CASH-STRAPPED Pakistan has sought financial assistance of $2 billion from its close ally China for a year.

Caretaker Prime Minister Anwaarul Haq Kakar, in a letter, has requested Chinese Premier Li Qiang to roll over the debt as soon as the deposit time for the loan from China is completed on March 23.

In his letter, Kakar expressed gratitude to China for its financial assistance to Pakistan during its economic crisis as the country has secured a safe deposit of a total of $4 billion in loans from China, reducing the country's mounting pressure on external debt payments and stabilising its foreign exchange reserves, *The Express Tribune* newspaper reported.

Earlier this month, the UAE rolled over Pakistan's maturing loan of $2 billion.

Apart from the UAE, Saudi Arabia has deposited $5 billion with the State Bank of Pakistan. Following the loan rollover by the UAE, the interim government requested the IMF to dispatch a new mission this month for talks for the last loan tranche of $1.2 billion.

The IMF's next mission is critical for not only securing the last loan tranche but also for beginning negotiations for a new long-term programme. *PTI*

Biden administration approves F-16 fighter jet sale to Turkey, F-35s to Greece

WASHINGTON

THE Biden administration has approved the sale of F-16 fighter jets to Turkey following the Turkish government's ratification this week of Sweden's membership in NATO. The move is a significant development in the expansion of the alliance, which has taken on additional importance since Russia's invasion of Ukraine. The State Department notified Congress of its approval of the $23 billion F-16 sale to Turkey, along with a companion $8.6 billion sale of advanced F-35 fighter jets to Greece, late on Friday. The move came just hours after Turkey deposited its "instrument of ratification" for Sweden's accession to NATO with Washington, which is the repository for alliance documents and after several key members of Congress lifted their objections.

The sale to Turkey includes 40 new F-16s and equipment to modernise 79 of its existing F-16 fleet. The sale to Greece includes 40 F-35 Lightning II Joint Strike Fighters and related equipment. NATO ally Turkey has long sought to upgrade its F-16 fleet and had made its ratification of Sweden's membership contingent on the approval of the sale of the new planes. The Biden administration had supported the sale, but several lawmakers had expressed objections due to human rights concerns.

Those objections, including from the chairman and ranking member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sens. Ben Cardin, D-Md., and Jim Risch, R-Idaho, have now been overcome, officials said. Cardin said in statement on Friday that he had still had concerns about Turkey's rights record, but had agreed to the sale based on commitments Turkey has made to improve it. "I look forward to beginning this new chapter in our relationship with Turkey, expanding the NATO alliance, and working with our global allies in standing up to ongoing Russian aggression against its peaceful neighbours," he said.

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SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of Site No.38, formed in converted Sy.No.61, Khatha No.952, E-Khatha Property No.15020010150010134 & 952/38 situated at Yadavanahalli Village, Attibele Hobli, Anekal Taluk, Bangalore Dist, measuring east to west 40 feet and north to south 30 feet, totally measuring 1200 Square feet, and bounded on the :
East by: Vacant Site, West by: 30 feet Road, North by: Plot No.39, South by : Vacant Site.

N. JAGADEESH KUMAR, Advocate,
No.30/1, 2nd Floor, 7th Cross, Near NR Colony Bus Stand, Opp. Hotel Dwaraka, Bangalore-560019. Cell # 9341261700

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WE WOULD LIKE TO INFORM THE GENERAL PUBLIC THAT MY CLIENT **MR. ZEESHAN**, S/o. ZUBAIR AHMED, HAS LOST ORIGINAL GIFT DEED DATED 14.12.2004, REGISTERED AS DOCUMENT NO.ANK-1-19497-2004-05, IN RESPECT OF PROPERTY BEARING VACANT SITE No.476/1, JINGER NO.549. FORM NO.9 AND 10 SHANUBHOGANAHALLI VILLAGE, BANNERGHATTA GRAM PANCHAYATH, JIGANI HOBLI, ANEKAL TALUK, MOREFULLY MENDIONED IN THE SCHEDULE, HEREUNDER STANDING IN THE NAME OF HIS MOTHER MRS. NOOR FATHIMA AND POLICE COMPLAINT IS REGISTERED UNDER LOST OF ARTICLE REPORT NO.0803365/2023, DATED 10.11.2023. IF ANY PERSON WHO FINDS IT, IS REQUESTED TO RETURN THE SAME TO US AT BELOW MENTIONED ADDRESS.

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UN court rebuke apart, would GENOCIDE CHARGES against Israel stick?

ILLUSTRATION: SOURAV ROY

T K VINEETH @ Kochi

THE International Court of Justice (ICJ) on Friday directed Israel to prevent genocide in Gaza but stopped short of asking it to suspend its war against Hamas, which has so far killed some 25,000 Palestinians, maimed 60,000, and displaced 2 million people.

"The State of Israel shall, in accordance with its obligations under the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, take all measures within its power to prevent the commission of all acts within the scope of Article II of this Convention, in particular: (a) killing members of the group; (b) causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; (c) deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; and (d) imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group," the ICJ said in its interim order.

The United Nation's top court at The Hague, Netherlands found that "at least some of the acts and omissions alleged by South Africa to have been committed by Israel in Gaza, appear to be capable of falling within the provisions of the Convention" and urged Israel to act in accordance with its obligations under the 1948 pact.

The ICJ also ordered Israel to prevent and punish any incitement to commit genocide in Gaza and take urgent measures to provide basic services and humanitarian assistance to Palestinians in Gaza. It gave Israel one month to report back on compliance. The interim order also directs that Israel shall preserve the plausible evidence related to allegations of violation of the 1948 Convention.

Import of the interim ruling

While giving the interim ruling on South Africa's application to initiate proceedings against Israel for violating the Genocide Convention of 1948, the ICJ held that there is a 'plausible' risk of genocide in Gaza because of the ongoing conflict. The order, however, does not indicate that the court believes genocide is actively taking place. The court did not explicitly order Tel Aviv to suspend the war, as sought by South Africa, as an emergency measure. The judges also did not accept Israel's demand to throw out the plea, holding that Palestinians as a group are protected under the 1948 Convention and that there is a case to be heard whether their rights were denied during the war in Gaza. The merits of the main question about whether Israel committed war will be decided later, as ICJ's lengthy process takes years to conclude.

"This is the case with respect to the right of Palestinians in Gaza to be protected from acts of genocide and related prohibited acts identified in Article 3 of the Genocide Convention, and the right of South Africa to seek Israel's compliance with the latter's obligations under the convention," presiding judge Joan E Donoghue said. After reading out the order, she also issued a statement calling for the "immediate and unconditional" release of the hostages held by Hamas.

The middle path adopted by the judges leaves the interim decision open to interpretation. Both sides can claim their arguments are valid and have been accepted by the court. In his first reaction, Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the court's decision not to order an immediate ceasefire meant it had rejected South Africa's primary claim. South Africa, on the other hand, termed the ruling "a decisive victory for international rule of law" and a step closer to justice for Palestinian people.

The case

After South Africa dragged Israel to the ICJ on December 29, 2023, the court held hearings in the case on January 11 and 12. In its application, South Africa accused Israel of violating the Genocide Convention of 1948 during its military operations in Gaza, citing the number of civilian casualties and damage to civilian infrastructure. It alleged that Israel was trying to annihilate the Palestinian national, racial and ethnic group in the Gaza Strip, which would be a clear violation of the 1948 Convention.

South Africa pointed out five 'genocidal acts' committed by Israel against Palestinians in Gaza — i) the mass killing of Palestinians; ii) the infliction of serious mental and bodily harm; iii) expulsion and forced displacement; iv) assault on Gaza's healthcare system, which renders life unsustainable; and (v) the imposition of measures intended to prevent births within the group. "The conduct of Israel — through its state organs, state agents, and other persons and entities acting on its instructions or under its direction, control or influence — in relation to Palestinians in Gaza, is in violation of its obligations under the genocide convention," it said.

Given that the ICJ's final ruling is many years away, South Africa requested the court to issue some provisional measures, including an order asking Israel to immediately suspend its military operations in Gaza to mitigate the risk of genocide.

During its argument in the ICJ on January 12, Israel rejected all allegations of genocidal intent and presented evidence to the contrary, showing it was delivering food, water, medical supplies and fuel to Gaza. It also argued that the deaths and injuries to the residents of an active combat area can't be deemed genocidal. Rather, they are a natural corollary of military action, it argued. Israel said it has the right to defend its citizens under international law in response to Hamas's terror attacks on October 7, 2023, which left over 1,200 Israelis dead. Israel claimed its strikes are against Hamas, the terror outfit, and not the civilian population in Gaza.

ICJ's mandate

The ICJ is the principal judicial organ of the United Nations that settles disputes between states and gives opinions on legal questions referred to it by authorised UN organs and specialised agencies. The court has 15 judges, who are elected for nine years by the United Nations General Assembly and the Security Council. Its official languages are English and French.

ICJ's rulings are final and there is no appeal. Theoretically, the court's orders and binding but in practice, they are unenforceable. For example, in 2022, the ICJ had ordered Russia to "immediately suspend military operations" in Ukraine. The order was ignored. Earlier, in 1986, the ICJ ruled that US support to the contras in Nicaragua was illegal and that Washington must pay reparations to the Sandinistas. The US had initially said it would respect the decision, but when the adversarial order came, it rejected it.

South Africa's role

Why has South Africa chosen to drag Israel to the ICJ when its orders are not enforceable? More so, when the country is not involved in any or directly harmed by the war in Gaza? Such an intervention by a third party is rare but not without precedent. In 2019, Gambia took Myanmar to the ICJ accusing it of genocide against the ethnic Rohingya people. When the question came up about the African nation's locus standi, the judges ruled that Gambia had the right to file the case because the Convention obligates every individual state to prevent genocide.

As for South Africa, its intentions could be more than just altruistic. The ruling African National Congress is bracing for its toughest election this year since coming to power in 1994. President Cyril Ramaphosa is seeking a second term amid widespread criticism of his government's failure to fulfil poll promises. There are allegations that the government has failed to provide basic services to millions of the country's poor Black majority. With the economy in shambles, the unemployment rate is hovering around 32%. Also, surveys say a raft of corruption charges involving top leaders could make it even harder for the ruling ANC to win over a disillusioned electorate. In such a scenario, the optics of the ANC standing up against one of the world's most influential countries, may ratchet up its electoral fortunes.

Way forward

Israel, backed by the US and its powerful Western allies, has repeated rejected allegations of genocide. It has also been pushing back against demands — including from the US -- to scale down its military operations in Gaza. It is not clear if Israel will accept the ICJ's interim order. However, the somewhat nuanced ruling — without a clear order for an immediate ceasefire — has made it easier for Tel Aviv to consider toning down its offensive. Also, undermining the ICJ ruling carries the risk of reputational harm and loss of influence on the global scene.

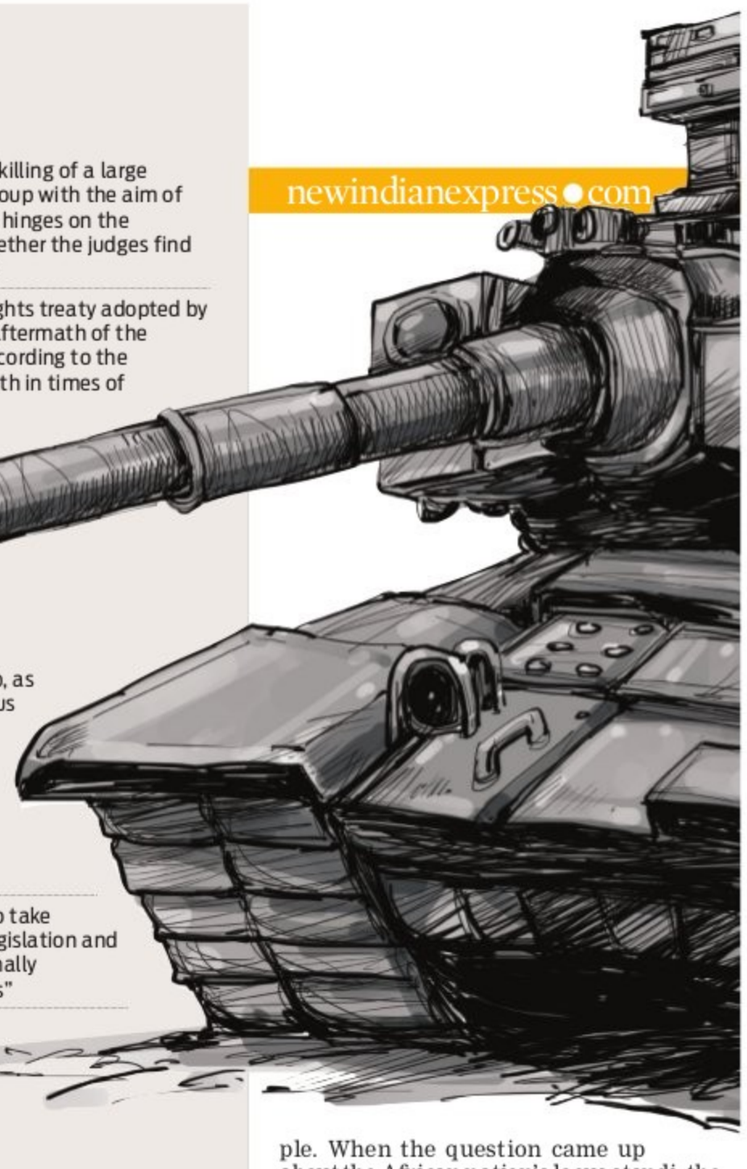
The main case could drag on for at least four years. The negotiations involve long, detailed written applications, which are usually followed by arguments and counters from legal representatives of each country. The judges then decide on a final verdict. Whatever the outcome, and regardless of whether the verdict is accepted, it will have brought the Genocide Convention to the fore, making it difficult for warring parties to ignore it with impunity in future conflicts. The wheels of justice turn slowly, but grind extremely fine.

DEFINITION OF GENOCIDE

The dictionary meaning of genocide is "the deliberate killing of a large number of people from a particular nation or ethnic group with the aim of destroying that nation or group". The entire case in ICJ hinges on the definition of genocide under international law and whether the judges find Israel's actions in the Gaza Strip come within its ambit

The Genocide Convention of 1948 is the first human rights treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly on 9 December 1948 in the aftermath of the atrocities committed during the Second World War. According to the Convention, genocide is a crime that can take place both in times of war as well as peace. Article II of the Convention says "genocide means any of the following acts committed with intent to destroy, in whole or in part, a national, ethnical, racial or religious group, as such: killing members of the group; causing serious bodily or mental harm to members of the group; deliberately inflicting on the group conditions of life calculated to bring about its physical destruction in whole or in part; imposing measures intended to prevent births within the group; and forcibly transferring children of the group to another group."

The Convention makes it obligatory for state parties to take measures to prevent genocide, by enacting relevant legislation and punishing perpetrators, "whether they are constitutionally responsible rulers, public officials or private individuals"



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GAMBIA VS MYANMAR

In November 2019, Gambia became the first country to invoke its jurisdiction to seek redress for alleged genocidal acts committed against the citizens of another state. Gambia alleged that Myanmar's military committed acts of genocide by systemically destroying — through mass murder, rape, and other kinds of sexual violence — villages of the Rohingya in Rakhine province

Opposing the application, Myanmar argued that Gambia, being a third party not in any way connected to the issue, did not have the legal rights and that it was acting at the behest of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (IOC). The African country was abusing the process of law, which should not be allowed, it contended, adding that there were no existing issues between Gambia and Myanmar. The legal team of the junta said it wouldn't have opposed it if Bangladesh moved the application, because the country was affected by the influx of a huge number of the Rohingya from Myanmar

For its part, Gambia did not deny OIC's support but argued that it did not take away its rights and obligations to prevent genocide

On July 22, 2022, the ICJ decided that it has jurisdiction under the Genocide Convention to hear the application filed by Gambia against Myanmar. It also clarified that the intent of the petitioner, political or otherwise, is immaterial as the court is only looking at the issue through the prism of law

Why rape and kidnapping are the latest avatars of cybercrime

UJWAL JALALI @ New Delhi

IF you follow cybercrime flicks, chances are you would have heard of Jamtara. Jamtara is a small town in Jharkhand that attained notoriety as the phishing capital of India after hundreds of incidents of cyber fraud across the country were traced back to it. The swindlers even inspired filmmakers. A web series featured on Netflix was titled 'Jamtara - Sabka number aayega' where a group of small-town young men run a lucrative phishing operation. With cybercriminals constantly exploring newer avenues, we look at two disturbing global trends — cyber kidnapping and cyber rape — rearing their heads, though not yet prevalent in India.

Cyber kidnapping

The terms cyber and kidnapping may not appear to sit together, but fraudsters have found ways to make that happen. Although virtual kidnapping takes many forms, it is always an extortion racket — one that tricks victims into paying ransom to free a loved one they believe is being threatened with violence or death. Unlike traditional abductions, virtual kidnappers do not hold anyone in their captivity. Instead, through deceptions and threats, they make victims believe the abduction has actually taken place and coerce them into paying a quick ransom.

A sensational case came to the fore last month when a Chinese family of a foreign exchange student studying in the Utah state of the US was extorted a whopping $80,000 by scammers who tricked them into believing that their son was kidnapped. In reality, the Chinese student had just isolated himself on the instructions of the criminals.

It all began on December 28 last year, when Riverdale Police in Utah was alerted by a high school regarding the kidnapping of a foreign exchange student, Kai Zhuang. The school reported to the Riverdale Police that they were contacted by the victim's parents in China who told school officials that their child had been abducted.

The family received a photograph of Kai Zhuang and it appeared he was being held captive and was in danger. The kidnappers demanded ransom and the family subsequently transferred $80,000 to bank accounts in China due to continuous threats from the kidnappers.

The Riverdale Police contacted the FBI, which gave them the big picture of several cases with a similar modus operandi that had recently occurred in the US. Zhuang was never kidnapped and was later found in a tent about 40 km north of Brigham City where he had isolated himself on the directions of the scammers.

In cyber kidnapping, fraudsters first identify targets who are probably staying far away from their families. In the second step, a call is made to the person who is going to be virtually kidnapped. The kidnappers or cyber fraudsters use multiple ways — threat and blackmail — to make their target isolate themselves for some time. The third step is contacting the family of the victim, who are told that their loved one has been abducted.

The scammers then send the family voice notes of their loved ones crying for help and sometimes even writhing in pain. They threaten the family to immediately transfer the ransom if they want to see their 'abducted' person alive. The final shot is an AI-generated picture of their loved one showing him/her in 'captivity'. More often than not, the family yields.

Cyber rape

Cyber rape may be defined as an act of forcing an unwilling sexual act on someone in a virtual environment. It could involve a non-consensual touch, exposure or manipulation of the character representation. Violence against women in an online environment can take many forms like cyber harassment, revenge porn, threats of rape and can go as far as sexual assault or murder. And the chances of the perpetrator erasing his digital footprint to evade the law are high.

Cyber violence affects women disproportionately, not only causing them psychological harm and suffering but also deterring them from digital participation in political, social, and cultural life. Recently, a young girl in the UK faced a heinous crime virtually after which the police began its investigation, perhaps for the first time in history. According to media reports, the victim, who is under 16, was wearing an immersive virtual reality (VR) headset and in a virtual room when a group of men sexually assaulted her virtual avatar.

The teen is said to have experienced psychological trauma similar to that of someone who has been physically raped. There is an emotional and psychological impact on the victim that is longer than any physical injuries.

Can India's new law act as a deterrent?

The Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS) 2023 classifies cybercrime as organised crime. Experts feel the BNS has the tools to deal with emerging threats of cybercrime. "Since it treats cybercrime as organised crime, the punishment would not be than five years and up to life imprisonment, along with fine, which will not be less than ₹5 lakh," advocate Kumar Kislay, an expert in cybercrime, told this newspaper.

-Advt

Arogyamandir
Health - Problem and Solution

Q. What are the signs of healthy ageing in an individual? Suggest Ayurvedic tips for the same.

Ans- Our body is made up of seven essential elements, known as Sapta Dhatus namely Rasa, Rakta, Mansa, Meda, Asthi, Majja & Shukra. These Dhatus are responsible for the different functions in the body. The ageing process causes breakdown in the body leading to degenerative changes. However, healthy ageing is observed in individuals who take adequate measures to keep Sapta Dhatu nourished. In these individuals, the adequately nourished Saptadhatu maintain a healthy life. These individuals have optimum energy, a healthy mind & body with strong immunity. For ensuring healthy ageing it is important to have an Ayurvedic diet & lifestyle, with regular Yoga practice and being attuned to spirituality so as to ensure a happy, healthy & zealous life. Shree Dhootapapeshwar manufactures Amla Plus with Zinc Tablet which has Rasayan property with added benefits of Zinc. This improves physical strength, immunity and nutrition to body tissues. One can consume 1 – 2 tablets 2 times a day with water.

Q. My father is a 68 year old retired Army personnel. He has always led an active lifestyle, goes for walks and exercises every day. These days he has been complaining of joint pain and muscle stiffness. Kindly help me with a remedy to tackle this.

Ans- As per Ayurveda, with age the body undergoes degenerative changes due to the daily wear and tear of the day. Similar to a machine that requires regular oiling to prevent rusting and ensure proper functioning the body's wear and tear can be prevented by regular Abhyanga with Sesame Oil. Also in Shishir Rhutu i.e. winter season, the body is more prone to suffer from joint pain and stiffness due to cold & dry climate. Therefore, apply Dhootapapeshwar Pain Relief Oil, which is prepared with a base of Sesame oil. Apply on the affected area, by taking a desired quantity in a bowl and heating it by double boiler method until lukewarm. For best results, massage gently till it gets absorbed, followed by hot fomentation.

Q. I am 45-year-old lady working in a corporate office. My job profile seems very hectic and stressful at times. Off late, I am also noticing mood swings and a decline in my appetite. Please suggest a remedy for this concern.

Ans- As per your age group, you may be experiencing the signs of perimenopause wherein according to Ayurved, a women's body undergoes a shift which causes a dominance of Vata Dosha. You must begin with Shree Dhootapapeshwar Drakshovin Special, a supreme health tonic 15 ml with equal quantity of warm water post lunch and dinner. Drakshovin Special contains Draksha along with herbs such as Shunthi, Marich, Pippali, etc. which helps in digestion. This health tonic also has Rasayan and Medhya Dravya like Ashvagandha, Vidarikanda, Shatavari, Brahmi which help to provide physical and mental strength.

It is appropriate to take medicines with the advice of Ayurvedic physician.

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